

Divergent Partnership Trust

Annual Report 2019

What is an Academy Trust?

An Academy Trust is a charitable body that exists for the core aim of advancing education for the public benefit. The Trust enters into an agreement with the Secretary of State for Education that sets out its responsibilities and accountabilities for the effective running of an academy or group of academies. The Trust is funded directly by the Government, not through the Local Authority. It is important to highlight that an academy Trust is a charitable body, not a profit-making body.

What is the Divergent Partnership Trust?

In 2013 Wrotham School converted to academy status as 'convertor academy'. The Trustees decided to set up the Trust as a Multi Academy trust, so that they could grow a group of schools when the opportunity was right. Since 2016 Wrotham School has developed a strong partnership with Aylesford School. Aylesford School has an Academy Order to join our Trust, but cannot formally join until Kent County Council and the Department for Education can agree on how to deal with the Private Finance Investment contract that provided Aylesford with its new buildings ten years ago. However, governors at both schools are keen for the partnership to continue, and for the schools to work 'as if Aylesford was a formal member of the Trust' until it can formally convert to an academy. In 2016 Wrotham School Academy Trust changed its name to the Divergent Partnership Trust.

The vision of the Trust is to grow a family of schools in both the primary and secondary phases, that work together to provide an education that builds character. We share a mission to develop confident young people who can make a positive difference to the world around them.



Aylesford School has just received £30,000 from the Savoy Educational Trust to expand its Food and Cookery Department.

Who are the people running our Trust?



Matthew Wright

Executive Headteacher of the Trust

Mr Wright was Headteacher at Wrotham School from January 2012 to September 2016, at which point he became the Executive Headteacher of the Divergent Partnership Trust. Under his leadership Wrotham has become increasingly oversubscribed and has had to expand as a result. Furthermore, it has consistently been one of the highest performing non-selective schools in Kent. Ofsted stated that, 'The headteacher provides inspired leadership', and that his leadership is, '...underpinned by strong values and a moral purpose.' In September 2016 he became the Executive Headteacher of Aylesford School and has led the introduction of Character Education as a central tenant to the school's journey of improvement. Mr Wright is passionate about Comprehensive education and the need for schools to have the highest expectations for their students. As Executive Headteacher he has three core aims:

- To maximise the opportunities for positive collaboration across the Trust
- To support all Headteachers across the Trust
- To champion the interests of all academies in the Trust

Mr Wright is also the Chief Accounting Officer of the Trust.

Sheila Smith

Sheila is the Chair of Trustees. She began her teaching career teaching mathematics in 1965 at Kidbrooke Comprehensive School. Over the next 39 years she became Deputy Head at Hextable School, School Improvement advisor in the Kent advisory and inspection team, Technical and Vocational Initiative Director for Mid Kent and finally Headteacher of Hextable School. Since retiring she has been involved in teacher training and the inspection of British Schools abroad.



Mr Wright, Executive Headteacher, receives the Character Education Kite Mark, on behalf of Aylesford School.

Our Vision

To grow a Multi Academy Trust of excellent schools that sit at the heart of their communities. Our academies are aligned by a commitment to: prioritising academic excellence, high expectations and the development of character; being inclusive; developing the highest quality of teaching and learning; providing valuable progression routes that will give young people choices in adult life and allow them to be well qualified to achieve success and well-being.

Our Leaders



Tanya Kelvie

Headteacher – Aylesford School

Miss Kelvie has been Headteacher at Aylesford School since January 2017. She is a vastly experienced school leader having spent the last 15 year as Assistant and Deputy Headteacher at Wrotham School.

Miss Kelvie is an advocate of all young people. She has a passionate belief in supporting and challenging students to reach their potential.

Her 'can-do' attitude has seen her help students gain excellent results and make great progress under her leadership.

Miss Kelvie believes that students can only reach their academic potential if they have strong pastoral support and guidance.



Mike Cater

Headteacher – Wrotham School

Michael Cater is Headteacher at Wrotham School. Together with his leadership team, he is responsible for the day-to-day leadership of the school and its strategic direction. Having worked at the school for 5 years he has rigorously pursued and achieved outstanding results at GCSE and A Level whilst maintaining a school identity that reflects his passion for community values and high quality student experiences through enrichment.

Michael has taught at comprehensive schools throughout Kent and the South East where he has developed a strong track record of raising standards. His background in media and the arts has inspired his passion for creativity and innovation in education.

How does your school benefit from being in the Trust?

Collaboration between staff at the schools means that the very best practice and ideas are shared. Furthermore, teachers at both schools have the opportunity to share planning. This helps with their work load, enabling them to spend more time and energy on delivering excellent lessons. This benefits students at both schools.

The Trust delivers a Leadership Development Programme for staff at both schools. This means that we can develop strong leaders who stay working on the Trust and have a positive impact on ensuring that your child receives the best possible education.

We save money for both schools by sharing staff. For example, we employ a qualified accountant as our Finance Director. He is paid for by both schools, and his professional qualifications and experience mean he is able to ensure that we achieve value for money at all times. This means more money to spend on students.

We save money by negotiating contracts for both schools. This means that there is more money to spend on the students. For example, in June we negotiated a new IT management contract for both schools which saved each school thousands of pounds a year.

As a member of a small academy trust, Wrotham School has significantly benefitted from capital investment that is only available to academies. In the past two years Wrotham has received over £3 million of capital funding which has been used to improve the site and school buildings, including £1.8 million to build our new sports hall.



The Duke of Edinburgh award has become a popular activity at Bronze, Silver and Gold level at Wrotham and Aylesford School.

What are the schools in the Trust and how are they doing?

Wrotham School

Wrotham is consistently one of the highest performing comprehensive schools in Kent at both GCSE and in the sixth form. The excellent academic results and positive culture in the school mean that it remains highly oversubscribed. August 2019 saw Wrotham's first International Baccalaureate (IB) results, and we are all very proud that these results are better than the average IB scores across the globe! GCSE and A level results were excellent and showed positive value added across the curriculum. In June 2019 Ofsted visited the school and judged the quality of leadership and the personal development of students to be 'outstanding'. Furthermore, the school retained its overall 'good' judgement and saw an improvement of its overall sixth form judgment as "good".

The new sports hall build is underway. This will be ready for use for all students in April 2020.



All Year 7 students at both schools enjoy a camping and survival skills evening as part of their induction using our generous fields and outdoor spaces that can be utilised by schools in the trust.

Character Education

In September we introduced a focus on character education to Wrotham School, following the success of this work at Aylesford. Below are the ten character strengths that the Wrotham School community have decided to focus on developing:

RESPECT INTEGRITY **CONFIDENCE**
OPEN-MINDEDNESS **MOTIVATION**
COMMUNICATION TEAMWORK
CREATIVITY **RESILIENCE** COMPASSION

Aylesford School

Even though the school is not yet formally in the Trust, we work as if it was. In June 2019 we were all incredibly proud when Aylesford School became one of only five schools across England to be awarded the Character Education Kite Mark. The school's focus on character education is being recognised widely, and the University of Birmingham have been filming at the school so that they can show other schools how to develop good character in their students. Here are the ten character strengths that we have been developing at Aylesford School. These were chosen by the school community in 2017.

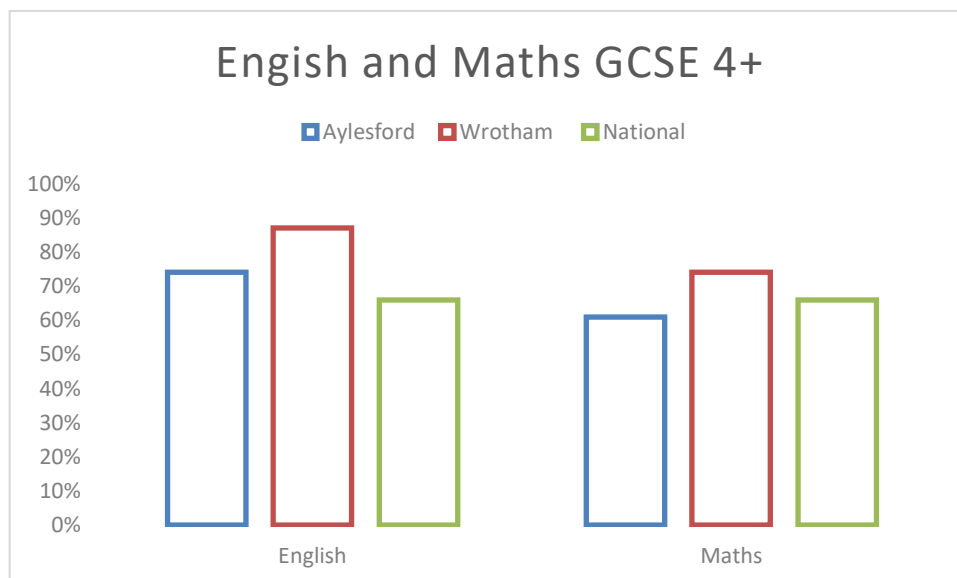
RESPECT SELF-DISCIPLINE **COURAGE**
OPEN-MINDEDNESS **MOTIVATION**
RESILIENCE CONFIDENCE **INTEGRITY**
COMPASSION **CURIOSITY**

In August 2019 students at Aylesford School achieved the school's best ever results. 74% of students achieved a Grade 4 or higher in English GCSE, and 61 % did so in maths. These results are both higher than national figures and are the results of school improvement work led by the partnership over the past 3 years.

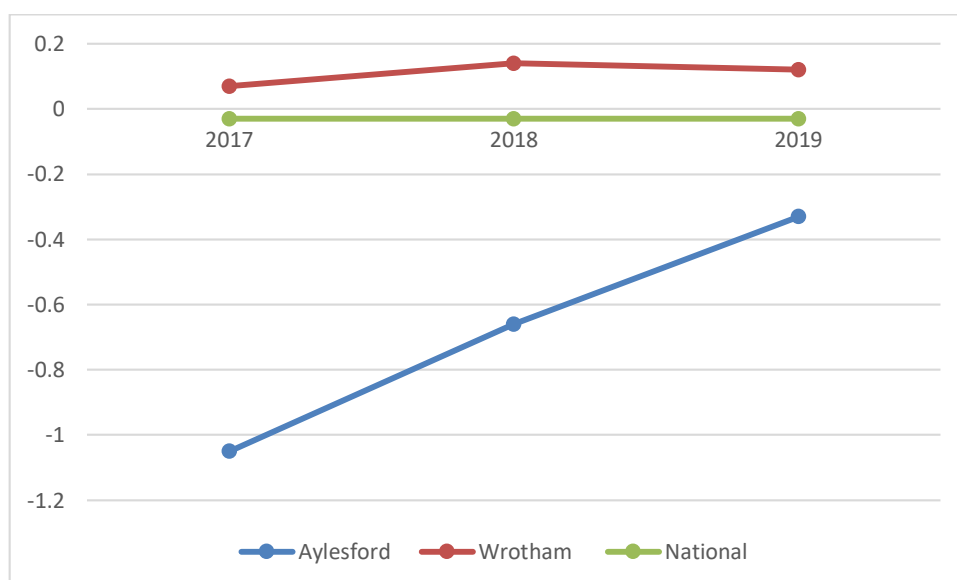
Trust Performance

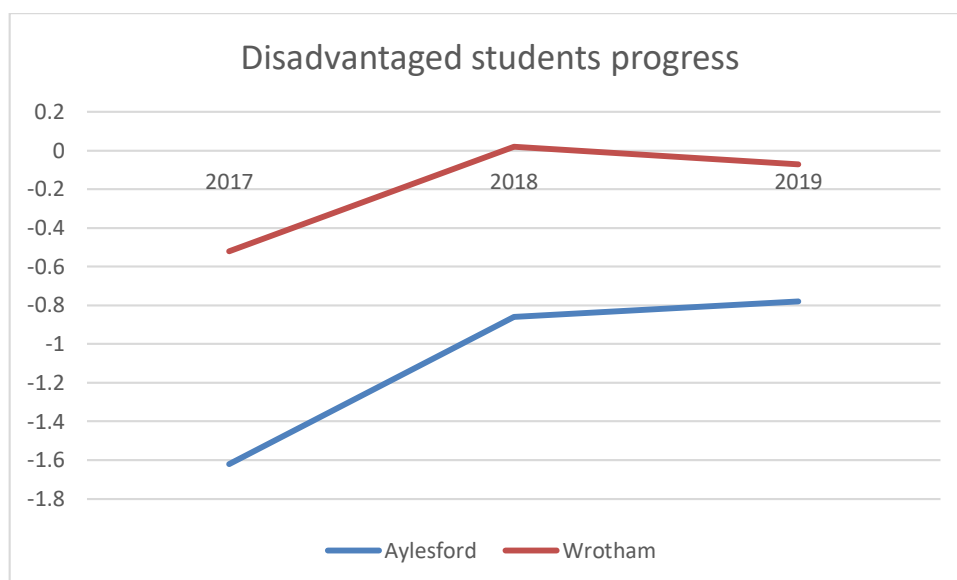
Success at KS4

Attainment KS4



Improvement Over Time KS4





Success at KS5

Wrotham School

Once again Wrotham School students celebrate outstanding results at post 16. This year is a very important year for the 6th form as it marks the first year of IB results for our students.

Our overall results see a significant improvement on last year and are our best results ever at level 3 when considering the new courses on offer and the success at IB.

A summary of our results can be found below:

Overall Performance

Overall Pass Rate	98%
A*-C Grades	58%
A level Average Grade	C-
Applied Subjects Average Grade	Merit +
Academic Subjects Average Grade	C
Tech Level Subjects Average Grade	Distinction +
Level 3 Value Added	+0.02

IB Results



Subject	% 7-5 (A*-B/C equivalent)	% 7-4 (A* – C/D equivalent)	L3VA
Film HL	78	100	+1.19
Film SL	0	100	-0.18
Social Anthropology HL	82	82	+0.71
Social Anthropology SL	50	100	+0.84
Theatre HL	63	100	-0.33

Aylesford School- KS5 Results

Aylesford School has a small and growing post 16 provision. In 2020 we will have the first IB results for the school. One unique feature of post 16 provision at Aylesford is a thriving professional chef's course. We recently wrote a bid to the Savoy Education Trust and were delighted to receive £30,000 of new funding. This will be used to expand our catering courses provision at post 16.

Applied Subjects Average Grade	Merit +
Tech Level Subjects Average Grade	Merit -
Level 3 Value Added	+0.02

