

24 February 2026

Dear Parents,

Important Announcement on the Future of Alderley Edge School for Girls

I am writing with news that I know will be deeply upsetting for all of our community. After exhaustive consideration and with deep sadness, the Board of Governors is proposing to close Alderley Edge School for Girls at the end of this academic year on Tuesday 7 July 2026. This proposed closure includes all aspects and activities of the school - from Nursery through to the Prep School, Senior School and Sixth Form. I want to acknowledge the impact this announcement will undoubtedly have on our community. AESG is a place of friendship, joy and learning for all of our girls, and we are profoundly aware of the importance of the school in the daily lives of our pupils, staff and families.

The Challenges We Are Facing

Like countless independent schools across the country, AESG is facing immense challenges that are both specific to the school and affecting the sector more widely. Unprecedented cost pressures - including the introduction of VAT on school fees, the removal of business rates relief, higher employer national insurance contributions and rising costs - have placed a significant strain on the school's finances. In addition to these factors, the school does not have sufficient pupil numbers and the significant reduction in numbers over recent years has led to the situation where the Board no longer considers the school to be financially sustainable.

This combination of external economic challenges and falling pupil numbers has been compounded by local dynamics. Falling local birth rates mean it is increasingly harder to recruit pupils in a highly saturated local market.

The Board has not stood still in the face of these headwinds. We carried out a comprehensive review of our staffing structures and made substantial and difficult cuts over the last few years, as well as engaging in the TPS process to reduce costs.

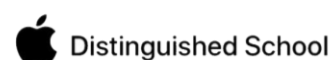
Along with these cost-savings, we have explored and assessed all other viable options for securing the future of the school. We considered every serious option to preserve AESG in a form that would still deliver the standards our girls deserve.

Headmistress: Mrs Caroline Wood BA (Hons) PGCE

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This included considering the closure of the Prep School, the removal of the Sixth Form, and other restructures around the school's operations. Sadly, none of these options were felt to be sufficient. We have also explored a number of potential sales with a variety of educational organisations but ultimately these have been unsuccessful despite our best efforts.

I should underline that none of this is a reflection of the professionalism and dedication of our staff. As painful as this is, the Board's view, subject to staff consultation (see further below), is that planning an orderly and well-supported closure allows us to safeguard the quality of education and pastoral responsibilities to pupils and families. We have seen too many closures elsewhere that have not been able to do this; we are determined that this is not the case for us. We have an interim funding offer that we expect will allow the school to remain fully operational until the end of the academic year.

The Consultation Process

We will now begin a formal legal consultation with staff which we expect to take place over the remainder of this term. Once the consultation with staff concludes, the Board will consider the outcomes with great care before confirming a final decision regarding the proposal to close. We will keep families informed so you can plan with clarity. We will be supporting our excellent staff as much as possible throughout this process and recognise the particular difficulty of this news for them.

Our Commitment to Your Daughter

Our commitment to your daughter is unwavering. We will maintain high standards of teaching and pastoral care for the remainder of the academic year so that every girl continues to feel supported and confident in school each day.

In order to mitigate the impact of a potential closure, over the coming weeks and months we will also provide transition support to help families identify and secure suitable places at other schools.

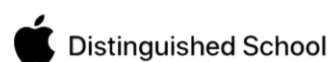
Our priority is focused on supporting pupils with the remainder of the academic year to a high standard, and supporting parents to find alternative places at other schools that align with your daughter's needs, interests and talents for the start of the 2026/2027 academic year in September 2026.

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For now, our senior leaders are meeting and liaising with local schools to gather information. We will then be providing written communications to all our parents next week about the process, support and plans we have in place for supporting families for finding places for September 2026.

We announced the news to staff earlier today and will be announcing it to pupils in the Senior School and Sixth Form tomorrow morning via an assembly, led by Mrs Wood. Parents may share this news with their daughters this evening or wait until the school assembly in the morning. For pupils in the Prep School we kindly ask that parents have this conversation with their child as you deem appropriate. We will be providing various support measures for all pupils over the coming months to process this news.

We appreciate all the hard work of our staff and the uncertainty that this news will cause them. Their professionalism is truly exemplary and we will support them as much as possible through this process to ensure they are dealt with considerately and fairly.

Next Steps

For those that can attend, we will be holding an online information parent meeting regarding the proposal to close on Thursday 26 February at 09:30 – Thursday. Teams Meeting. We will also be holding another online meeting for those that can

attend on Friday 27 February at 09:30 - Friday. Teams Meeting. In order to attend the online meetings, there is no need to register - our normal process for attending online Teams meetings applies. Please click on the above links for access

on the day. Please share your questions by 2pm on Wednesday, 25th February to parentsupport@aesg.co.uk We will provide an email summary of the key questions and answers to all parents after Friday's meeting.

We will hold an in-person meeting for parents next week on Wednesday, 4th March, where we can discuss the proposal to close and alternative places. A time will be confirmed in due course.

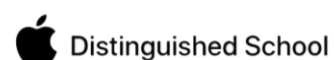
We will liaise with local schools and provide more information next week about the process for finding alternative places for 2026/2027.

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If you have any questions related to the proposed closure that you would like to submit in advance of the meetings, or any questions regarding your daughter's situation, please contact parentsupport@aesg.co.uk

Thank you for your support of AESG and, above all, for the contribution your family has made to our community. We are a wonderful and tight-knit community and will continue to support each other with care, compassion and resolve as we navigate this period. We will be speaking with parents at the online sessions this week as outlined above and further communications will follow after this. In the weeks ahead, we will support your family, your daughter, our staff and wider community as much as possible.

Mrs Caroline Lowe
Chair of Governors

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