29 September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Active School of the Year Award 2017 – Nominations

I am writing to you to ask for your assistance in helping Aylsham High School gain recognition in the Active Norfolk ‘Active School of the Year Award 2017’. The annual award is judged on nominations and testimonies that each school receives highlighting the following area:

“A school that gives its students a wide range of opportunities to participate in high quality physical education and extra-curricular sport and physical activity. The school should demonstrate how it engages with all young students and effectively transitions young people into community activity”.

I am writing to ask for support in our application to receive this prestigious award.

Aylsham High School was one of three shortlisted secondary schools for the 2016 award and we aim to go one further this year. We were also awarded the Broadland District Council ‘Sports School of the Year 2014-15’ for ‘providing exceptional sports opportunities for students’. Providing these exceptional sporting opportunities for all is at the heart of our school ethos. We are also very proud to have recently received the Sainsbury’s ‘School Games Mark Award’. This award is judged on the level of participation within lunchtime clubs and school fixtures, the support we offer to our talented performers, the opportunities we promote for students to access local club sport and the level of provision we provide for sports leadership opportunities.

All students receive two hours of high quality PE provision a week and we have exceptional levels of participation. All students have the opportunity to attend a lunchtime club each day and the clubs cover a broad range of sports. The school has an outstanding level of participation in local leagues, county cups and North Norfolk Partnership Events which encourage and provide exceptional opportunities for our students to enjoy competitive sport at a high level. The success of offering these opportunities can be seen in the large number of students with representative honours for North Norfolk, Norfolk and England. Regular interhouse sporting events and whole school sporting events such as cross county and sports days ensure all students benefit from the opportunities Aylsham High School provides.

The school has numerous links with community sports clubs where students successfully participate. We also promote and direct students towards community activity through our ‘Sports Ambassadors’ wall where over 100 local clubs covering a vast array of sports and activities are linked to current students who act as a point of reference for their club. In addition, our sports facilities are utilised by the local community and the school is used as a sporting hub by numerous sports clubs.

Executive Headteacher: Mr D Spalding B.A. (Hons)
Deputy Headteachers: Mr P Brockington B.Sc. (Hons) M.A., Mr C Bridge B.Sc. (Hons)
Director of Inclusion: Mrs K Garnham B.A. (Hons) M.A.
Director of Business and Community Strategy: Mrs J Tuttle Finance Director: Mrs T Colman

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Aylsham High School provides numerous sports leadership and coaching opportunities for all our students. We deliver the ‘Aylsham Sports Leaders Award’ which culminates in our young leaders organising sporting activity at lunchtimes. Our bespoke ‘Aylsham High School Sports Diploma’ gives students the option to gain coaching and first aid qualifications which they practically apply in sports sessions and tournaments for our cluster schools. The ‘FA Junior Football Leaders Award’ also allows our students to plan and deliver a football festival for our cluster schools. These opportunities can provide the first step to a career in sport and are supported through work placements offered within the PE department. All of our young sports leaders, in all of the contexts above, have been a huge success.

Aylsham High School offers extended sporting opportunities beyond the classroom. The biannual football, rugby and skiing tours promote personal and cultural development and have provided students with the chance to experience once in a lifetime opportunities. The annual Twickenham trip to watch a rugby international fixture again highlights Aylsham High School’s commitment to providing exceptional sports opportunities for our students.

The Active Norfolk ‘Active School of the Year Award’ is a highly competitive category and we need your support. We would love to receive this accolade to exemplify the work we do and for the students to gain the credit for all their efforts. It would be fantastic if you could support our aim in achieving this award and we would ask if you could submit an application to Active Norfolk through their website at –

http://www.activenorfolk.org/forms/view/activeschooloftheyearawardsnominationsecondary

The deadline for nominations is midnight on Wednesday, 11 October 2017. Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Claxton
Head of PE