

July 2021

Once again, I would like to thank everyone in our whole school community for their invaluable support and hard work throughout yet another extremely challenging academic year and in particular a challenging last couple of weeks with cases rising at the school.

Whilst a number of important activities were once again calendared for this summer term, it has been amazing to see how quickly the school community is able to adapt so that alternative arrangements can be put in place when required. For both of our Year 11s and Year 13s, Teacher Assessed Grades were carefully worked through and moderated with all of our teachers prior to sending them to the exam boards for them to standardise. For our Year 6's transitioning in to Year 7 in September, induction was reorganised to honour the bubbles of our feeder schools whilst giving our future students a taste of their new school.

As you would expect, our focus is now shifting from getting to the end of this academic year to focussing on the next.

We have now finally set our Inset days for the next academic year to be as follows:

- Inset Day 1 Thursday 2nd September 2021
- Inset Day 2 Friday 3rd September 2021
- Inset Day 3 Thursday 30th September 2021
- Inset Day 4 Friday 1st October 2021
- Inset Day 5 Friday 24th June 2022

In addition, we have chosen to take the day in lieu of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Thursday 23rd December 2021. This will allow students to break up for Christmas on Wednesday 22nd December 2021.

It is currently being planned for school to open in September for all students on Monday 6th September with all students being invited in for their first Lateral Flow Test (LFT) on either Thursday 2nd September or Friday 3rd September 2021. A follow-up LFT will then be scheduled for all students within the first couple of days of the term.

We would greatly appreciate help in ensuring that students are in the routines required to be ready to learn in preparation for their return to school in September. It is vital that they get enough sleep, wake up and get up on their alarm as well as eat and drink healthily. When students return they need to make sure that their bag is packed the night before with their work and books for the next day. They also need a pencil case which includes several black pens, pencils, ruler and rubber so that they do not need to borrow equipment. In addition, students need to bring their own water bottles for the day.

With regards to staffing, we wish Mrs Frost (Post-16 SEN Team Leader) all the best for her retirement after 17 years at the school and Mr Cope (Design teacher) all the best for his retirement after 15 years at the school. We also wish Mrs Bunting (Deaf and Hearing Impaired Team Leader) all the best for her future as she moves on to a new challenge after 17 years at the school as well as wishing Miss Sergison (Maths teacher) and Mr Temple (Seclusion Officer) all the best in their new posts after spending a year at the school. Finally, we would like to wish both Mrs Doyle and Mrs Bobeszko all the best as they head off on their maternity leaves.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a good summer. We hope that you all stay as well as you possibly can in these times and we look forward to coming back together as a community in the near future. Mrs Hatto Head Teacher

Lateral flow Covid tests

Although the restrictions for Covid look likely to be lifted, we would really appreciate if students and families could continue to do lateral flow tests towards the end of the summer break. We currently don't know what the government expectations will be regarding testing in the Autumn so it would therefore be really helpful if students can do at least one test in the last week of the holidays, just to try and minimise any risk to other students. Tests are available from reception and will be available to collect throughout most of the summer but you can also order them online or collect at pharmacies should you wish to keep testing twice a week over the summer break.

We really appreciate all the support you have given to us with the in and out of school Covid testing over the last two terms and we will keep you updated about new testing strategies as and when we receive them.

School meals

We are delighted to be able to confirm there will be no increase to the amount charged for a school meal from September 2021.

The price of a paid meal will remain at £2:50 for which a student can get a main meal, dessert and drink.

The allowance for any student entitled to receive a free school meal will also remain at $\pounds 2:50$.

When school returns in September our main priority will of course continue to be the safety of our students and staff.

With this in mind we shall be reviewing the system of fingerprint technology for students taking advantage of our catering facilities. This is to help reduce the potential for spreading infection. The options are to either continue asking each student their name as they approach the tills, the catering operative will then find the student on their system and deduct the amount of money spent from their individual account, or to reintroduce the use of fingerprint technology. We have photographs and names for each of our students on this system. We shall take advice and guidance from Derbyshire County Council and relevant health authorities before deciding which is the most suitable way forward. Once we have reached our decision we shall update our information to parents/carers.

Please could you ensure that when your child arrives in September they have sufficient money on their account, using the Parent Pay system, as we shall be unable to accept cash at the tills, again in an effort to minimise spreading infection.

Any student in receipt of free school meals does not need to make any adjustment as we shall preload their account with $\pounds 2:50$ each day.

New student captains

We are extremely proud to introduce Aldercar High Schools' Head Girl and Head Boy for the 2021-2022 academic year. Janneil and Sky will work alongside our two deputies George and Eleanor.

To complete our student leadership team each house has two House Captains and two Sports Captains.

Being a member of the student leadership team is a very important role. We look forward to working with them next year, opening new and exciting lunch/afterschool clubs, encouraging all students to take part in house competitions, supporting with open days and parent evenings.





Year 6-7 transition

We have been really looking forward to meeting our new Year 7 cohort this year. On Thursday 1st July we met the students coming to us from Langley Mill Academy, on Friday 2nd July we met the students coming to us from Marlpool Junior School and Mundy CofE Junior School and on Monday 19th July we are meeting the students transferring to us from primary schools which are out of our catchment area.

We have had a great three days getting to know our new students, allowing them to meet the staff at Aldercar High School and experience some taster lessons as well as a tour of the school site. The highlight for most students was the fabulous school lunches!

Each of our Year 6 students were also presented with a new book as a gift from Aldercar High School. The book is titled Go Big and takes students through the exciting transition from primary to secondary school. Form tutors will be picking this up with students in September.

Our Year 6 students are also busy collating 'Best of Me' folders at their primary schools. They will select their best pieces of work in English, Maths and other subjects from Year 6 to bring it along to us at the start of Year 7. This will allow their new teachers to see the fantastic work that they are capable of achieving.

Finally, some students have been invited to attend our summer school during the first week of the holidays. The theme for the week is the 2021 Toyko Olympics and students will be taking part in a range of lessons relating to the Olympics as well as participating in a range of sporting activities. We are really looking forward to welcoming our new students and their families to our school.

Reminder: 1st day at Aldercar High School is Monday 6th September.

Aldercar High School defibrillator fundraising

Many of us saw the awful scenes unfold as Denmark's Christian Eriksen collapsed recently during a Euro 2020 football match. This got us thinking about how we could best respond if anything similar was to happen at school.

We held a 'Wear Your England Football Shirt' (It's Coming Home!) day on 7th July, and raised over £300 towards the cost of a defibrillator for school.

Ideally, we would love to buy two (one for the sports hall and one for the main school) but they cost £1400 each and there is no government funding available for them.

Nonetheless, we are now on our way towards the first one, and the fund received a **MASSIVE** boost when one of our Year 7 students, Daisy, who raised awareness with her parents' friends and work colleagues through a Facebook post, and raised an incredible \pounds 94.

Thank you so much Daisy (and mum and dad)...we are really, very thankful.

To show how grateful we are, Mr Parry even served breakfast to Daisy at school!



If anyone else is able to help us reach our target of £1400 for the first defibrillator we would be so, so grateful. Please contact Mr Turner at school if you can help us.

We also have a defibrillator Go Fund Me donation page set up if you would like to help please visit https://gofund.me/64962247

Thank you for your support

Sudden cardiac arrest training

Students have been taking their e-learning sudden cardiac arrest training after hearing about the Denmark footballer Christian Eriksen after he suffered a cardiac arrest on the pitch during his side's Euro 2020 opener against Finland.

They each received a certificate to say they had successfully completed the training.



Sport News

The first fixture back was for Year 7 in a 9 a side football for fun style afternoon.

The format was no scores kept and no overall winner just the students enjoying a bit of football against other schools.

However, first game we beat Ripley Academy 1-0, drew to Belper A team, then defeats against Flamstead and Belper B and C teams.

The team performed very well and gave their all in the draining heat. Well done guys.

Zebrared visits Aldercar High School

At Aldercar High School we are keen to promote a positive ethos amongst our students. With this in mind, we invited the Zebra Red Project, a group who offer guidance to students to prevent them starting on a path of bullying, hatred, and violence.



Dr Manny Barot (far left) and Jason were the guest speakers and the students really enjoyed their fun and interactive approach to a very serious subject.

We are sure everyone will agree that it was a real privilege to have them in our school and to hear their message.

For further information see the website below:

https://zebraredproject.wordpress.com/

Amber Valley School Sports Partnership

Amber Valley School Sports Partnership are offering a free high quality sports camp for students in current Year 7-Year 9 who attend Aldercar High School.

Camps are delivered by a team of experienced, fully qualified staff with activities such as football, dodgeball, tennis, basketball, archery, athletics and much more.



A full week of activities from August 9th-13th will run from 8.30am until 3pm (Monday to Thursday) and 8.30am until 2pm (Friday) including a free lunch.

Students who attend all 5 sessions will be given a FREE football to take home.

Follow this link to reserve a place:

https://avssp.co.uk/aldercar-high-y7-9-camps/

Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Accelerated reader

Progress in reading at Aldercar over this past crazy year has been amazing. The students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have tried incredibly hard with reading and many have really pushed themselves to read books such as Dracula, Little Women and Pride and Prejudice!

A particular shout out goes to the following students who have achieved the highest results in Accelerated Reader throughout this year:

Most Quizzes Taken/Books read -

Year 7 Logan L - 64

Year 8 Sophia F- 87

Year 9 Michael G- 52

Most Quizzes Passed (85%+) – Year 7 Arron T – 23 Year 8 Sophia F – 48 Year 9 Lacey F – 23

Most points earned. (Each book is allocated an amount of points, depending on its complexity within the level it sits).

Year 7 Cora K - 154

Year 8 Marcus T - 223

Year 9 James G - 160

We also have an amazing five 'Word Millionaires' this year, which means these students have read and quizzed on enough books to mean they've read at least 1,000,000 words!

Year 7 Cora K - 1,069,060

Year 8 Ciara K – 1,280,162

Year 8 Mason B - 1,324,096

Year 8 Marcus T - 1,530,168

Year 9 James G - 1,034,056



Key Stage 3 summer reading challenge

Over the summer, why not continue to make progress and challenge yourself to **complete two tasks** based on your summer reading? You should choose two of the books you have read over the summer and complete one task for each chosen book. Any tasks that are



completed and handed in to your English teacher in September will earn you merits and entry into a prize draw – good luck!

If you are struggling for ideas, click on the suggested reading list document but you can, of course, choose your own books.

Task 1 – Book 1 – Formal Book Report

You should write a report on your book. It should be 250 words minimum. Remember to paragraph your work and check spelling, punctuation and grammar before handing in the final draft to your teacher in September. Your book review should include the following elements:

- \Rightarrow Brief synopsis
- ⇒ Your favourite part of the book and why
- \Rightarrow Your favourite character(s)
- \Rightarrow Your least favourite character(s)
- \Rightarrow What you thought of the book
- \Rightarrow What you would like to change

Task 2 - Book 2 - Creative response

For this task you should choose one of the activities from the list below.

You could:

- Create a PowerPoint presentation
- Create an advertisement for the book poster, radio, etc
- Design a website for the book. NB You do not have to actually create it - you can have sketches and a short presentation explaining what the website will be like
- Make a short video clip based on the book
- Write another chapter which occurs before the book opens, or after it ends
- Write an alternative ending closing chapter for the book
- Write a speech about the book, convincing your audience it is either the best, or worst book ever written and why it should, or should not, be included on the school curriculum
- Write a news article about an important event from the book
- Write a letter to the author explaining what you thought of the book, what you would change and any queries you might have
- Write a report for a magazine, based on an imaginary interview with a character or the author.

Key Stage 3 recommended reading list

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go!"

1984 by George Orwell 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett A Streetcat Named Bob by James Bowen A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll Animal Farm by George Orwell Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery Artemis Fowl Series by Eoin Colfer Ballet Shoes by Noel Streatfeild Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson Charlotte's Web by E.B. White Emil and the Detectives by Erich Kästner Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes Geek Girl by Holly Smale Greek Myths by Geraldine McCaughrean Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift Heidi by Johanna Spyri His Dark Materials by Phillip Pullman Holes by Louis Sachar I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith Inkheart by Cornelia Funke Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte Journey to Jo'burg by Beverly Naidoo



Key Stage 3 recommended reading list

Little House on the Prairie series by Laura Ingalls Wilde Little Women by Lousia May Alcott One by Sarah Grossman Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah Skellig by David Almond Stig of the Dump by Clive King Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain The Beasts of Clawstone Castle by Eva Ibbotson The Book Thief by Markus Zusak The Borrowers by Mary Norton The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon The Dark Is Rising series by Susan Cooper The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank The Elephant's Child from The Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman The Happy Prince by Oscar Wilde The Harry Potter Books by J.K. Rowling The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness The Lantern Bearers by Rosemary Sutcliff The Midnight Palace by Carlos Zuis Zafron The Moonstone by Wilkie Collins

Key Stage 3 recommended reading list

The Mozart Question by Michael Morpurgo The Never Ending Story by Michel Ende The Outsiders by SE Hinton The Owl Service by Alan Garner The Phoenix and the Carpet by E. Nesbit The Prince of the Mist by Carlos Zuis Zafron The Railway Children by E Nesbit The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson-Burnett The Silver Sword by Ian Serraillier The Star of Kazan by Eva Ibbotson The Sword in the Stone by T H White The Talking Parcel by Gerald Durrell The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson War Horse by Michael Morpurgo We Were Liars by E. Lockhart What Katy Did by Susan Coolidge When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr Witch Child by Celia Rees















Year 7 Science trip to the National Space Centre

It's been a long time coming but finally we've been able to resume our out of school trips, and what a way to start. The National Space Centre in Leicester is one of our best local visitor centres and, knowing that our current Year 7 have missed out on so much, we made the decision to press ahead with our planned trip there - and what a great time we had.

60 Year 7 students joined us on the 50 minute journey to space (not the actual space station despite some suggestions!). On arrival, we were taken to the rocket tower and were able to take the glass lifts up to many different displays and to see the rocket there from every vantage point. Because of Covid restrictions, we were allotted times for each area and our students were excellent at sticking to this for the whole day (in many ways it made the experience even more enjoyable). After the rockets we explored the other galleries, from 'Our Solar System' to 'Into Space', learning all about every aspect of space. Out students were very keen to do a mock weather forecast and sit in the model space station module

After lunch, we had a short time in the galleries before being taken to see Astronaut in the Planetarium, a funny, thought provoking and roller-coaster film about what it takes to become an astronaut (I've seen that the European Space agency are currently advertising but I don't think any of our Year 7 students were too keen just yet!).

We couldn't have asked for a better group to recommence our external trips with. Their behaviour was outstanding, they followed all the Covid rules and regulations and were amongst the tidiest group of students we've ever taken on a trip. I really hope they enjoyed their day as much as we did. We're already looking forward to more science trips next term to the Sea Life Centre and zoo, to name just two.









Geography field trip

In the first week of June, our Year 10 Geography cohort visited local rivers to take the measurements they need as part of their GCSE Geography fieldwork. 55 students made the walk from school to the River Erewash to study perfect meander profiles with teachers Mrs Cleveley, Mr Gillies, Mr Nisbet and Mr Parry. We had help along the way from our Year 12 Geographers and various other staff to ensure every student could take part.

As working in rivers is risky business the group sizes were small and limited to 15 pupils. Strict working conditions were in place to ensure everybody worked safely. Measurements such as the width, depth and speed of the river were taken and compared with other areas.

A fun day was had by all, although because of the heat we had to have a fuel stop at Maggie's Den at Aldercar Fisheries to recharge our batteries. All the students were impeccably behaved and a credit to themselves and the school.







Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Award

A small group of Year 9 students have been working hard towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award this academic year. They have showed dedication and commitment in completing work towards their physical, skills and volunteering sections. They need to do a minimum of three months in two of these sections, and six months in the other.

They have also been working just as hard in after school sessions doing camp craft, cooking, map reading, orienteering, first aid and lots of other exciting skills. This has helped prepare them for the expedition section in July, when they spend a weekend away from home, hiking and camping in the Peak District with only minimal supervision.

The pictures show the students testing their tent building skills on the school field in glorious sunny weather. This was an interesting experience to watch!

I would like to take the time to say a big well done and thank you to this group of students, and the staff who have supported them. I hope these students will be some of our first ever at Aldercar High School to achieve the Bronze Award!

If any current Year 8 students are interested in doing their Bronze Award in Year 9, please feel free to email Mr Waite.

for more information visit https://www.dofe.org/do/













Science rocket launch

Aldercar High Summer Olympics got off to a great start despite the fact that Year 7 and Year 9 were the only teams able to take part this year due to many students in Year 8 and Year 10 being forced to self-isolate.

Tasked to create a bottle rocket, students had the chance to design their bottle to make it aerodynamic and stable in flight as well as deciding on their own water to air fuel ratio, in an effort to see whose rocket could fly the furthest!

Some of the rockets exploded off the launchpad, some never got off the ground, some even went and came backwards...sadly, none made it into orbit despite a recent trip to The National Space Centre for Year 7 students that gave us hope.

The three Olympic medals have been awarded to the three teams whose rockets travelled the farthest:

Bronze - Team Harrison - Year 7 Ormonde with a distance of 18 metres.

Silver - Team Emi - Year 7 Gregg with a distance of 17 metres.

Gold - Team Jess - Year 7 Gregg with a distance of 16 metres.

Notable mentions for Year 9 who failed to achieve a top 3 distance:

Team Nathan - Year 9 with a distance of 14 metres.

Team Lucy - Year 9 with a distance of 13.5 metres.

Team Kyle - Year 9 with a distance of 12.5 metres.

Good luck to the competitors in their other events and let's hope for a Covid free Olympics in 3 years' time.













Post-16 news

Talk the Talk workshops

Recently our Year 12 students had two fantastic workshops delivered by Talk the Talk. The first one looked at communication skills and how developing these along with your confidence can help you with future plans. This was really well received by the students and many said that they gained some valuable skills from the group work they took part in.

The second workshop focused on the students' future and alongside many other activities got them confidently discussing future plans or worries as well as giving them tools on how to manage future interviews for university, apprenticeships or careers. It was wonderful to see the confidence of our students grow during the two days. Well done to all for your participation and willingness to try new challenges which was difficult for some.



Year 11 transition weeks

During the weeks beginning 5th and 12th of July we have organised Post-16 transition sessions for all of the Year 11 students who have applied to join us in September. The students will have 4 hours in each of the three subject areas that they have chosen to study. This will be a fantastic opportunity for them to meet the teachers and the other students that they will be studying alongside, and it will also give them a great insight into the content and expectations of the courses. We have also planned time to meet the tutors so that important information can be covered. We will be running a positive mental well-being session and discussions on what our students can do to get the best from their two years with us. Timetables have been sent out with subject sessions on.

We are really excited to see everybody during these weeks and look forward to answering any questions students may have.

Year 13 leavers

As the Year 13 students near the end of their time with us at Post-16, we would just like to say a huge well done for all of their hard work over the last two years. It has not been easy for many with the disruptions that Covid has caused, but the levels of determination, motivation and resilience have made us all very proud of your

We very much look forward to our celebratory meal with you to say goodbye, and then we look forward to seeing you to collect your results in August. Well done all.

ERS dance and archery

Sixth Form ERS students have been attending and enjoying after school sessions of Dance and Target Archery lessons.

The dance sessions have included learning Street dance, Sea shanty and paso doble with dance teacher Sharon Bednall.

The Target Archery has involved students learning how to safely use Bow and Arrows with an Archery Coach.

What students say...

ShaunnaAwesome time Harvey..... Really enjoy this time Matthew... Love the Archery Lewis......Absolutely Amazing.

These sessions will continue in September and will be offered to all new students coming in.





ERS trip to Sherwood Castle

Aldercar High School ERS students have enjoyed 5 days away at Sherwood Castle, visiting Rufford Park and enjoying activities including crazy golf, swimming and watching England play football.



Aldercar House Olympics

To celebrate the Tokyo Olympic Games finally starting on 23rd July in Japan we are going to complete some subject challenges over the last few weeks of term.



Teachers have organised competitions about Japan or the Olympics often with a link to their own subject area.

There are separate Year 7, 8 and 9 competitions between houses.

The winners will be awarded a Bronze, Silver or Gold medal and there will be an overall medal table to look out for.

The winning house will win the House cup for this year. Good luck!!!



Aldercar all-weather pitch

The floodlights on the astro turf have been fixed, a huge thank you goes to Active Derbyshire for funding the repair.

The pitch can now be booked out in the evenings until 10 pm.

If you would like to make a booking, please visit https://schoolhire.co.uk/ nottingham/aldercar-high-school or email lettings@aldercarhigh.co.uk.



Mrs Withers raises money for prostate cancer





Mrs Withers took part in March the Month in March this year, in aid of prostate cancer. She did 11,000 steps each day, every day throughout the month of March and raised £545!



Diary Dates	
Event	Date
Last day of term	22nd July
SUMMER BREAK	23rd July-1st September
Summer exam result day-Key Stage 5	10th August
Summer exam result day-Key Stage 4	12th August
Inset days 1 and 2	2nd and 3rd September
Years 7-11 and year 13 students return to school	6th September
Year 7 photographs	8th September
Year 12 students return to school	9th September
Year 9 Science trip to Twycross Zoo	29th September
Inset days 3 and 4 / Year 5 and year 6 open days	30th September and 1st October
Year 5 and year 6 open evening	30th September
Parents' literacy evening	5th October
Year 11 tutor review day	8th October
Post-16 open evening	12th October
Performing Arts trip to see Hairspray musical	13th October
Year 7 tutor review day	14th October
Year 11 revision evening - Gregg and Howitt	18th October
Year 8 tutor review day	19th October
Year 13 parents' evening	19th October
Year 11 revision evening - Ormonde and Shipley	20th October
Last day of half term	22nd October
HALF TERM	25th October - 29th October
Students return	1st November
Year 10 tutor review day	3rd November
Year 12 tutor review day	8th November
Aldercar's Got Talent	9th November
Remembrance bell / Post-16 remembrance dress to impress	11th November
Year 11 and year 13 mock exams	15th - 26th November
Year 9 parents' evening	1st December
Year 8 science trip to Birmingham Sea Life Centre	2nd December
Year 11 Post-16 interviews begin	6th December
Year 13 UCAS application deadline	10th December
British Sign Language pantomime trip	16th December
Student gratitude week	20th - 23rd December
Staff pantomime	22nd December
Day off in lieu of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee	23rd December
CHRISTMAS BREAK	24th December-7th January