



# Aldercar High School

## In pursuit of excellence



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Head Teacher: Mrs C Hatto

14<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### Important information regarding next academic year

Dear Parent / Carer,

#### School attendance

I hope that you will be aware that the government has released new guidance and expectations to schools regarding pupil attendance. Central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential is an assumption so widely understood that it is insufficiently stated – pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.

#### The government expects:

##### schools and local authorities to:

- promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence
- ensure every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled
- act early to address patterns of absence

##### parents to :

- perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly
- all pupils to be punctual to their lessons

As a school, we place school attendance as one of the top priorities for all students for 2022/2023 and we hope that we can work with families to ensure that all students are able to fulfil their potential.

#### Students who are late to school



From September, any student that is late to school and arrives through the main reception will have a 30-minute same-day detention after school. It is vital that all students arrive to school on time and are able to participate fully in the guided reading activities that will be taking place each day during this time. If there is an unavoidable issue which causes your child to be late, we would ask a parent/carer to either ring the main school reception or pop in and explain the circumstances. On 1 occasion per half term this would be authorised and no detention would be set. For any subsequent lateness, the detention would stand. We will inform all parents that their child has a late detention but this is for information only, not to request permission.

Any student that does not complete their 30 min after school detention will be set a 1-hour detention the following day. Again, if this is not completed, a parent meeting with your child's Head of Year would need to take place before your child returns to school and then serves a day in our Focus Room as well as serving the 1-hour detention that would be outstanding.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1089687/Behaviour\\_in\\_Schools\\_guidance\\_July\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1089687/Behaviour_in_Schools_guidance_July_2022.pdf)

### **Holidays in term time**

Although holidays taken during term time have not been authorised by the school, we have been reluctant to issue fixed penalty notices for this due to issues with holidays being rearranged due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We will be re-introducing fixed penalty notices for holidays taken during term time as a deterrent to families as this accounts for a large percentage of pupil absence, particularly in the summer months. We would urge you to book holidays during the school holiday periods. If you receive a fixed penalty notice, please be assured that this is not a personal decision taken against your family, but rather a strategy used to prevent valuable learning time being lost.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1076127/School\\_attendance\\_guidance\\_May-2022\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1076127/School_attendance_guidance_May-2022_.pdf)

### **School Meal Prices**

This week we have had notification from Derbyshire County Council to say that the price of a standard school meal has increased to £2.60 from September 2022 onwards. For this price, your child is able to purchase a standard meal deal. If your child is entitled to free school meals, they will have this amount credited to their account daily.

### **Non-Uniform Days**



On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July, the house champions for the year will be rewarded with a non-uniform day. This will be announced early next week when the final competition totals have been added to the current standings.

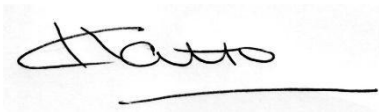
On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, all students are welcome to attend school in non-uniform for the day. Please ensure your child is in appropriate dress for school.

### **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July-last day of term**

The final day of this academic year is on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. On this day, Year 7 and 10 students will be able to leave school from 12:30pm onwards after they have had their lunch. Year 8 and 9 students will be able to leave shortly afterwards when they have had their lunch. We expect all students to have left school site by 12:45-1:00pm. If there are any students who cannot go home at this time and need to stay on site until 2:45pm, please contact the school reception no later than Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July so that provision can be made.

We hope you and your families have a very enjoyable summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming all students back in September.

Yours sincerely.



Mrs C Hatto  
Head Teacher