

Aldercar High School

Newsletter

July 2022

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our whole school community for their invaluable support and hard work throughout yet another challenging yet rewarding academic year.

As I am sure you will agree, it has been brilliant to see so many activities being run normally this term after the disruption of the past 2 years. For both of our Year 11's and Year 13's, their exams have taken place and for our Year 6's transitioning in to Year 7 in September, induction was back to being the full experience.

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 set our Inset days for the next academic year to be as follows:

Inset Day 1	Thursday 1st September 2022
Inset Day 2	Friday 30th September 2022
Inset Day 3	Friday 2nd December 2022
Inset Day 4	Friday 23rd June 2023
Inset Day 5	Monday 26th June 2023

The new school year will begin on Friday 2nd September 2022 for students in Year 7 and Year 12. For students in Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11, school will begin on Monday 5th September 2022. For students in Year 13, the term will begin on Tuesday 6th September 2022.

All students should arrive on site for 8:20am. The school day for all students for the new academic year will begin at 8:25am and finish at 2:55pm. We ask that all students enter and leave via the Sports Hall gates. Could we please remind parents that parking is limited close to the school site and we would therefore ask that you park a short distance away from the entrance to allow students to leave safely.

The school day will continue to have a split break and lunch time.

With regards to staffing, we wish Mr Farrall (Teacher of Science), Mrs Garton (Data and Exams Manager), Miss Gigg (Teacher of Maths), Miss Mansfield (Teacher of Science), Ms Stevens (Teacher of Food), Miss Ward (Teacher of Maths) and Mr Wright (Teacher and Tutor of Maths) all the best in their new posts.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a good summer and we look forward to continue working with you all in the new academic year.

Mrs Hatto Head Teacher

Post-16 news

The last term of the year is traditionally a busy time for exam groups and this year we got back into a more normal exam season for the first time in 3 years. Students had what was, for most, their first taste of a real exam hall and we have been really proud of their dedication and hard work. Results day for Year 13 is 18th August and we look forward to celebrating with you all then. Year 12 have also been busy with exams the last couple of weeks and will get their summer exam results when we come back after the holidays.

Drop down days

Although the end of Post-16 may seem a long way off, Year 12 had a drop down day to start the long process of university and further education and training applications. It is important that Year 12 students take some time over the summer to consider where they see themselves heading once their time in Post-16 is over. We were fortunate to have guest speakers from several higher education institutions come in to talk to our students about the range of options available. Mark from Nottingham College explained in detail about level 3,4 and 5 apprenticeships, Rici from NTU went further into this and talked about the ever-developing option of degree level apprenticeships and Gurj from Coventry University talked in detail about university applications and finance. Students then had a chance to explore their own ideas and look at UCAS and apprenticeship websites. When we come back in September the process begins in earnest, so if students can spend time over the holidays considering their option it will stand them in good stead. We have a few supportive events planned, including a visit to Coventry University in September so keep an eye out for these.

Young drivers

Perhaps one of the most important out of school activities for many Post-16 students is learning to drive. We want to ensure our students are safe drivers. To help this, we ran our successful young drivers' day, delivered by the police, fire and ambulance services. Students learnt about how to stay safe, what to do in an emergency and the consequences of poor decisions.

Enrichment

One of the most important parts of being in Post-16 is developing holistically - both for university and apprenticeship applications and for developing important skills. To help this, we now have an enrichment programme where students can earn rewards for their enrichment, both in and out of school. Many of the in school activities they do will count towards this and they can record them on Unifrog, making any future applications much more straightforward. Any students who do out of school activities are encouraged to let us know as well. Over the summer Year 12 students should be recording anything they do on Unifrog so that when we come back in September they have a great basis for starting their personal statements.

Post-16 news continued

Talk the Talk

For many students effective communication can be a scary prospect - whether that's in an interview, speaking in public or giving a talk in class. To help support students, we used the brilliant Talk the Talk. In these sessions, students are encouraged to develop their oracy skills, increase their confidence and think about how they present themselves. Students will find this invaluable in a number of contexts and particularly when they have university interviews.

London trip

Finally, trips are back on the agenda after what feels like forever and we started back in style with a trip to London. After a very early start we arrived in London and took a leisurely walk to visit Buckingham Palace where we were lucky enough to see the changing of the guard. We also went to Hyde Park, 10 Downing Street, the Houses of Parliament and Lords and Westminster Abbey. Feet already hurting, we then took the Uber boat down the Thames and had a chance to explore the Tate Modern. Lunch was on the move as we walked back down the Embankment taking in the stalls and events that always seem to be happening along the South Bank. A short tube trip saw us finish the day with some free time around Oxford Street. Feet aching after a full day and over eight and a half miles walked we headed home and despite the delays on the M1 a great day was had by all.

Post-16 induction

We were pleased to welcome some of the new students joining Aldercar High School Post-16 for their induction earlier this month. Many students were able to experience early lessons for their chosen courses. Miss Cracknell and Mrs Brighton will be here to support students on GCSE results day and it will be a chance for students to come and discuss their options if they have not got the grades they initially expected. Year 12 students start with two induction days on September 2nd and 5th during which time, students will have study skills sessions, receive timetables and experience Talk the Talk.

We do still have a few places left for Post-16 and would encourage anyone who may not already have a place with us to get in touch with Miss Cracknell or Mrs Brighton.

Work is underway to make improvements to the Post-16 study area to make it better for our students and a more focused working environment as well as being able to give students more facilities. We're really excited to be able to open this to students in September.



Subject Focus

One of the problems Year 10 and Year 11 students often face is making their choices for their studies once they come into Post-16. Students in Year 9 who are making their option choices might also want to explore their options so they can make the right choices to support their goals. To help this, each newsletter we will be having a subject focus so that students can get a little flavour of what Post-16 subjects can offer them. Even a known subject such as English can be very different once you get into Post-16. This term, our focus is English but if you would like to know more about any of the courses and options we offer at Post-16 then please get in touch with Miss Cracknell or Mrs Brighton in Post-16.

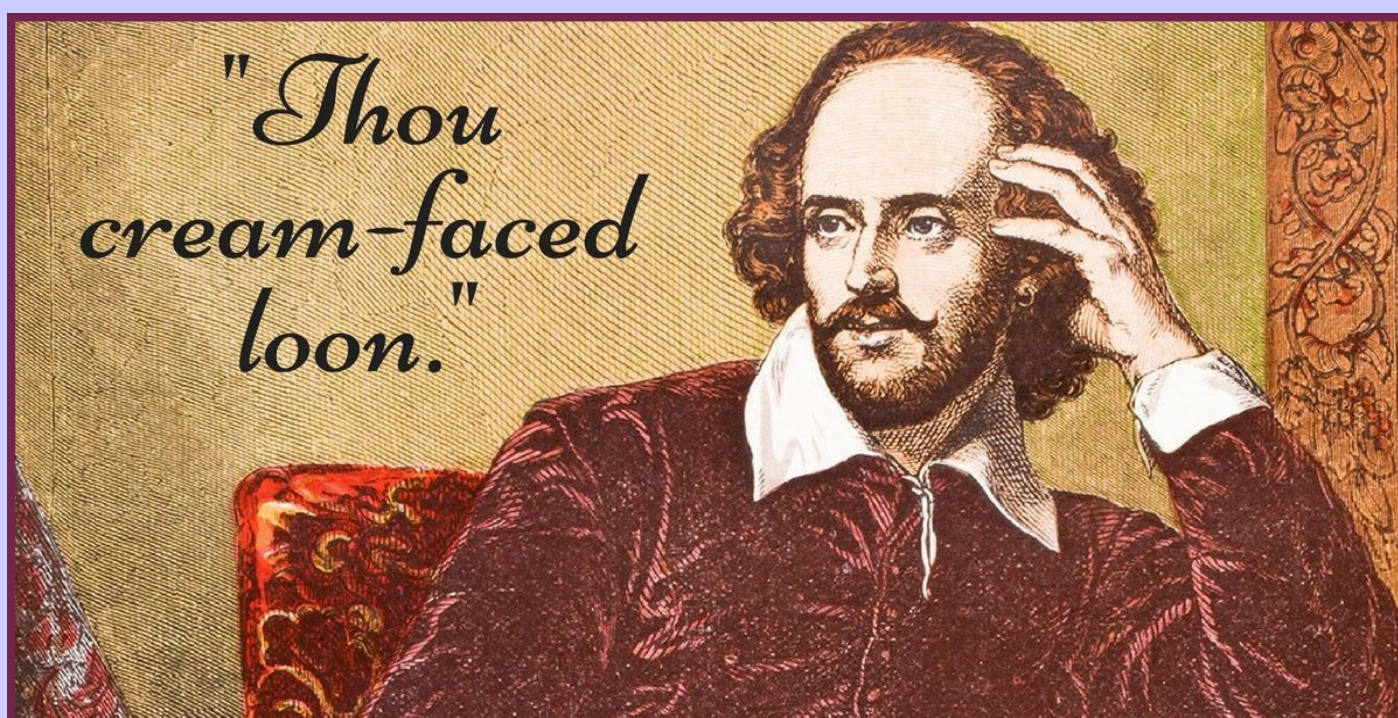
English Language and Literature

At Aldercar, we study the OCR English Language and Literature A-Level course. It's made up of four very different units in which you'll study what writers do and the tools they use to create effects. You'll examine poetry, plays and novels and have the chance to refine your own creative writing skills.

This is a subject which requires independent thinking and a love of reading. In the coursework element, you will need to work independently to create your own non-fiction writing and a comparative analysis of two books of your choice.

An A-Level in English Language and Literature opens up all kinds of opportunities for you in terms of work and study. It's widely regarded as one of the subjects which really shows an applicant's mettle!

You'll need to have achieved at least a Level 5 in English Language and English Literature at GCSE.



Subject Focus

English Language and Literature continued

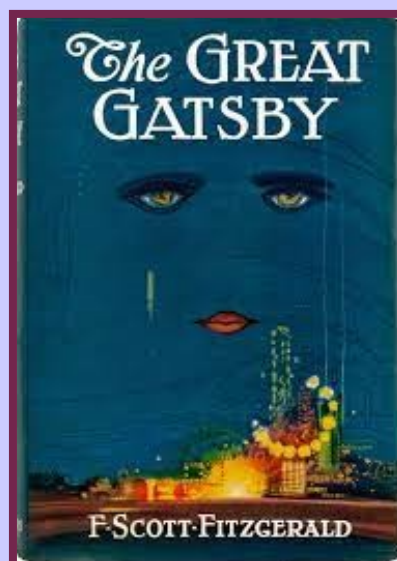
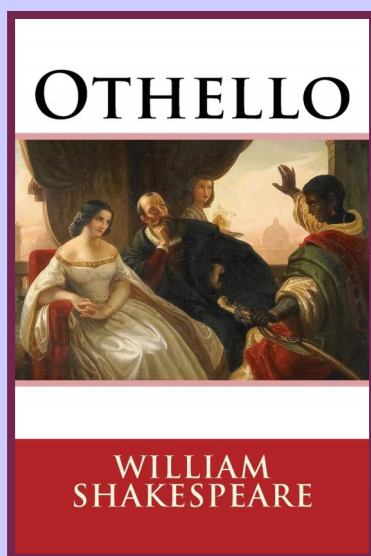
On the course, we study four main set texts. These are:

Shakespeare's Othello—a devastating tragedy which probes concepts of true love and deception.

Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby—the classic novel which asks if we really are who we think we are.

The brilliant, sometimes shocking love poetry of **Carol Ann Duffy**.

A varied and interesting **anthology of non-fiction texts** through the ages.



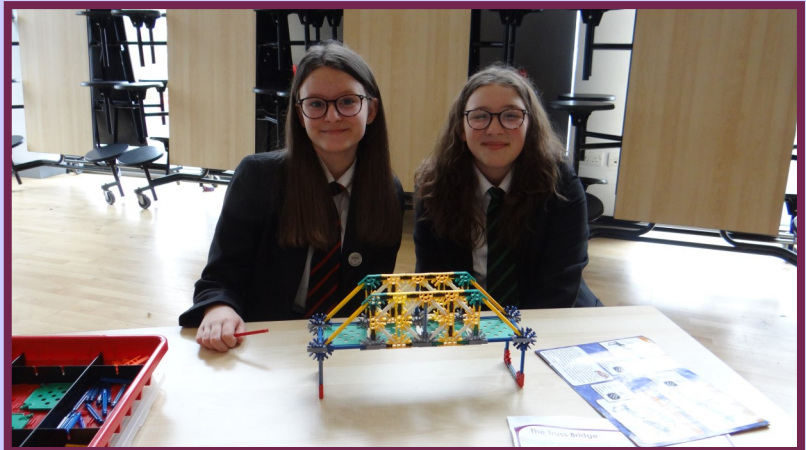
See Mrs Doyle or Mr Cowdrey for further information about English Language and Literature at Post-16.

Coming Up;

- Year 10 Post-16 launch Wednesday 20th July
- A-level results day 18th August
- New Year 12 starter days 2nd and 5th September
- Post-16 taster sessions September and October
- Coventry University trip 27th September

STEM event

Thirty Year 7 students were nominated by their science teachers as showing enthusiasm towards science. They took part in a STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) event focusing on building bridges from K'NEX. They were introduced to the roles of design, civil, structural and environmental engineering. They first assessed different shapes used in the construction of bridges such as triangles, rectangles and arches. Links were made to the forces topic taught as part of the Year 7 curriculum as tension and compression were explored. In groups of 4, they had to build either an arch, beam, cantilever, suspension, cable-stayed, truss or bascule bridge out of K'NEX.



Year 7 Stem event

At the Year 7 STEM event, students designed some train stations for the year 2050. They then built prototypes of tunnels to test whether or not they could hold the weight of the soil piled on top of them as well as checking they could accommodate a train. The students also needed to make them as light as possible to ensure easy transport. They then finished with a game to see who could build the longest train tracks and link to the most stations, taking into account communities, ecology, economics and services.

It was enjoyed by all and we were given great feedback on the session, run by Peter from HS2 and Learn by Design!



Book reviews

Some of our students have written reviews of books they enjoyed from the school library. Come and visit us and find your next favourite book!

Earthfall - Mark Walden

AR Level - 7.1

This book is all about a group of children trying to stay alive in the middle of an alien invasion. It is thrilling to read and you never know its next move. I would definitely suggest this book for all ages over 10. It's brilliant. 4.5/5.



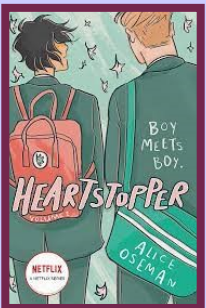
You Are a Champion: How to Be the Best You Can Be - Marcus Rashford

AR Level - 5.9

I think the Marcus Rashford book is great. It's very interesting and you get to learn about his life. This book would be great for football fans. I would rate this book 4.5/5. You need to be patient, but it gets good.

Heartstopper - Alice Oseman

AR Level - 2.6



Heartstopper is an LGBTQ+ series of graphic novels based around the lives of Charlie Spring and Nick Nelson. It includes good representation of different sexualities and genders while telling a heartwarming story of two boys in love.

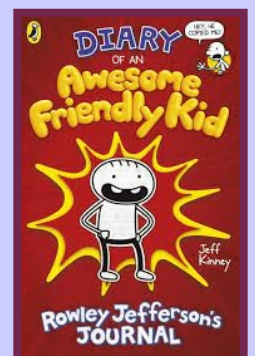
I like the book because it makes me feel proud and confident. Especially the line, "Oh look. I guess I'm gay now!" 4.7/5

Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid - Jeff Kinney

AR Level - 5.0

There are two boys Rowley Jefferson and Greg Heffley. They are best friends and it is a diary. It is written like a child and Greg is very naughty. It has 217 pages. The author is Jeff Kinney, he has lots of these books that you can find in shops and the school library. It's really funny and the pictures are great.. At the end it gives you a bit of another Diary of a Wimpy Kid story.

If you like a funny story, try this book. I'd give it 5 out of 5.

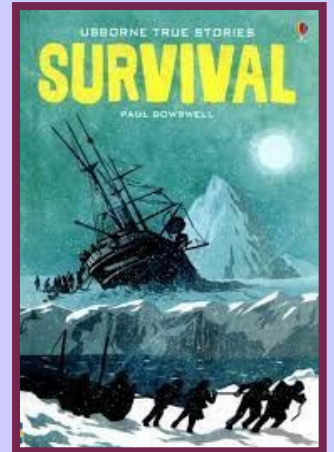


Book reviews continued

Survival - Paul Dowsell

AR Level - 7.9

This book contains multiple stories of people who have escaped near death experiences in many different ways, from escaping a volcano eruption to surviving a fall from a bomber jet. One thing I like about this book is the fact of there being multiple different but still exciting stories. One thing I dislike is that the stories are quite short, but some are a lot longer and I would prefer it if they were the same size and could describe the backstory a bit more in some of the shorter stories. 4.2/5



Mr Stink - David Walliams

AR Level - 4.7

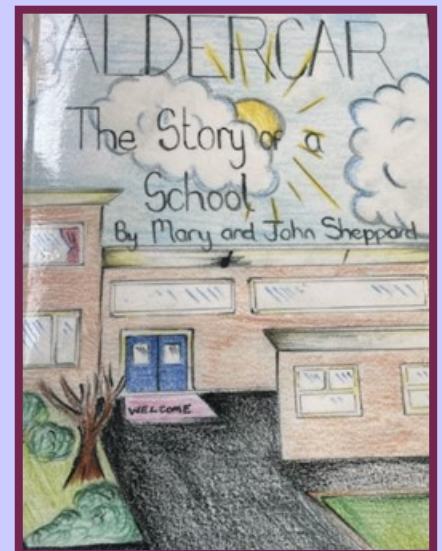
It's about a homeless man who meets a kind girl who helps him by giving him clothes and food and eventually lets him live in her shed. Her mother doesn't approve, but the girl does it anyway and her mum finds out, then Mr Stink becomes a celebrity.

I thought it was a great book, I'd give it 5/5

Aldercar The Story of a School - Mary and John Sheppard

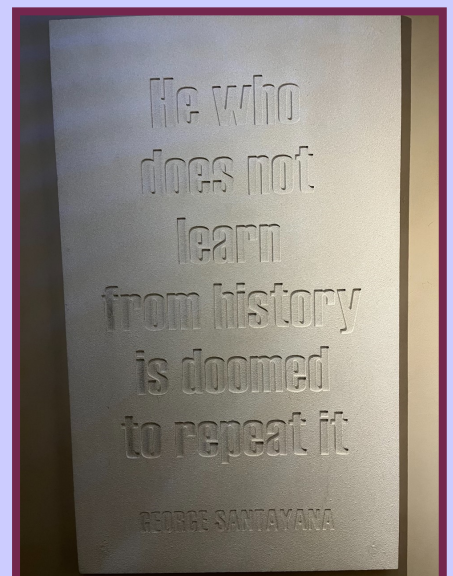
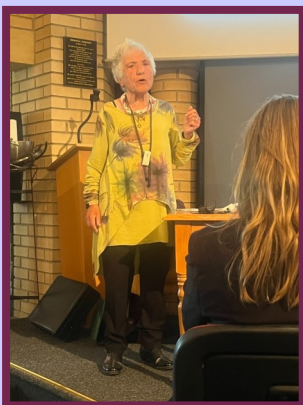
This is a book about Aldercar High School which was published in 2006. This book contains information on the school in the 50s and more. It also has a lot of pictures of the school, teachers, and teams etc.

Personally, I think this book is amazing. you find out about old teachers and how the school once was, also I find it fascinating that I have previous family members in it. I would recommend this book to ages 12+ mainly for people that like learning about the past. 4.8/5



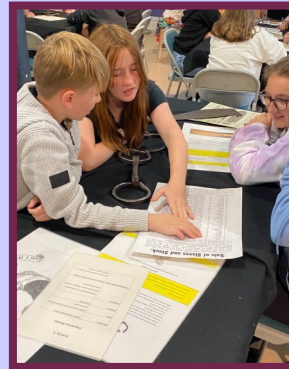
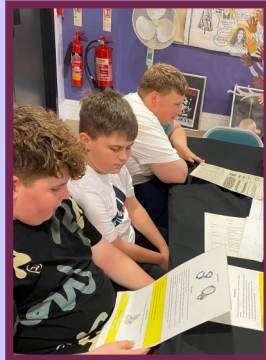
Holocaust trip

Fifty Year 8 pupils attended Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre in Newark on Friday 27th May. Throughout the day students took part in a workshop looking at the responsibility of bystanders and collaborators during the Holocaust. They visited the museum and memorial gardens and were very lucky to hear a Holocaust survivor speak of her experiences. This is an opportunity that not many students will ever get to experience; students learnt how Ruth's family were farmers before WW2 and were forced to sell their farm due to the Nuremburg laws which made it illegal for Jews to own farms. Her family were forced to flee Germany and her father spent time in a labour camp before WW2 broke out. Ruth's family were very fortunate and managed to get a visa to come to Britain as refugees, although her father had to spend several years on the Isle of Man interned in a camp by the British. Ruth's parents never recovered from the discrimination they experienced and never spoke of the war or the way they were treated. Ruth has dedicated her adult life to educating young people of the dangers and consequences of prejudice.



Year 7 Liverpool trip

Year 7 pupils took part in a combined humanities trip to the city of Liverpool. This was part of their history topic on the development of the transatlantic slave trade, and their geography unit of work exploring the Horn of Africa. During the trip, students took part in a hands-on workshop at the transatlantic slavery museum where they explored what artefacts can tell us. This was followed by a geography field work activity exploring how the docks of Liverpool have changed and regenerated. It was a fabulous day out and it was great to see students doing humanities out of the classroom.



Year 10 geography field trip

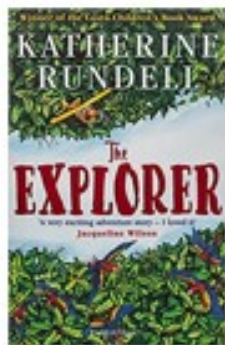
During the summer term, the Year 10 geographers visited the river Erewash. For half a day, students tested different conditions of the river to see if it matched up to their classroom learning. Whilst out in the field, students looked at river speed, depth, and width. This allowed them to create a report on whether or not their collected data matched up to expectations. It was a great success and ended on a swim to cool down from the heat!



Exploring Further in Year 9

The Living World

Read a book



This Summer take a look at the natural world by discovering UK ecosystems and major world biomes such as the tropical rainforest and hot deserts. Here are a series of documentaries, films and books to increase your wider knowledge of this.



Watch TV



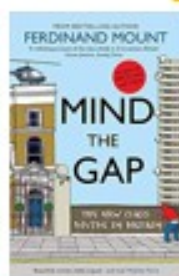
Urban issues

Visit the website worldatlas.com to travel the world with great maps, pictures, articles and facts. Or try these films, books and TV series



Rio de Janeiro

London



Year 7 - Shakespeare in Action

This June, our Year 7 students enjoyed a series of exciting and energetic workshops which brought Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet to life for them. A set of fun drama-based games introduced them to the key themes of the play and they were given the opportunity to perform sections of it. This was a great event and it was a joy to see our students engaging so enthusiastically with the workshops.



Year 11 Prom

Aldercar High School Year 11 prom was held at Horsley Lodge this year. Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Here you can see the prom King and Queen. We wish the Year 11 students all the best for their future journeys!

GCSE results day is 25th August 2022.



Golden Ticket rewards trip to crazy golf

Students who had earned a golden ticket in May went to play crazy golf in Nottingham. It definitely wasn't easy but it was certainly great fun!



Sports news

April

Our Year 11 boys football team played well in a hard-fought draw against John Flamsteed School, who are a decent physical team. There were plenty of chances for Aldercar High School in the first half that couldn't be converted. Goals from Bailey and Zac secured the draw. AHS 2 John Flamsteed 2.

Well done to all the students who took part: Jack, Zhayne, Max, Harry, James, Zac, Michael, Bailey, Kieran, Brandon, Beckham, Kyle and Ethan.

A very eventful evening took place at Ripley School for the Key Stage 3 Girls football team. All girls were a credit to the school.

Results:

Aldercar 1-1 Belper

Aldercar 0- 1 Flamsteed

Aldercar 1- 0 Heanor Gate

The students involved were Tansy, Alicia, Paige, Chloe, Layla, Emily, Caitlin, Scarlett, Sharna and Izzy.

May

The Year 11 boys football team lost overall to Belper School on a sudden death penalty shoot out having drawn 2-2 in normal time. They worked so hard, they bossed the majority of the game but just couldn't quite make the final balls pay in both halves. It was a whirl-wind of emotions and Mr Briggs may have aged 10 years after the game. He was overwhelmed by the spirit and togetherness that was experienced from this school football team. They played like champions and should have been champions but it just wasn't meant to be.

The Year 11 football lads left us with their best performance since joining us. Hats off to them all.



Sports news

May

The KS3 girls took part in a football tournament at Aldercar High School and came third overall from 9 teams.

The results were as follows:

AHS 1- 1 Ecclesbourne

AHS 0-1 Heanor gate

AHS 7- 0 Ripley

We came second in our group and went on to play second in the other group.

AHS 1-0 Swanwick.

As always the players were a credit to the school. Thank you to staff who were around to cheer our players on: they loved the support.

June

A massive well done to the select Year 7 students who competed against some of the other schools in Amber Valley Athletics. All students took part in 800m, 100m, vortex ball throw and standing long jump. All results combined towards a team score in which we came 6th.



The Year 7 girls rounders team played at Belper school. There should have been 6 teams but only 3 of us turned up. Scores were as follows:

AHS 5- 4 Heanor gate

AHS 5 - 4 1/2 Belper

It was an amazing effort for the girls to win both games. Well done.

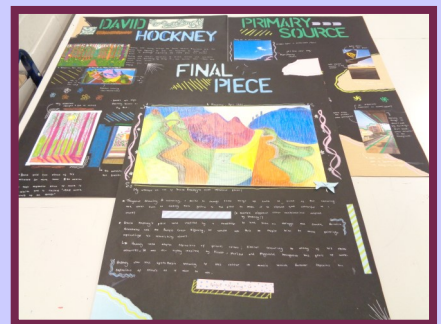
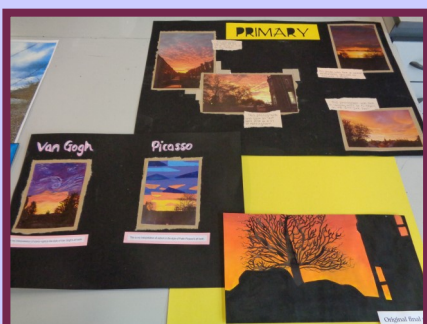
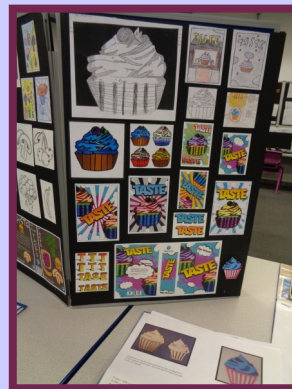
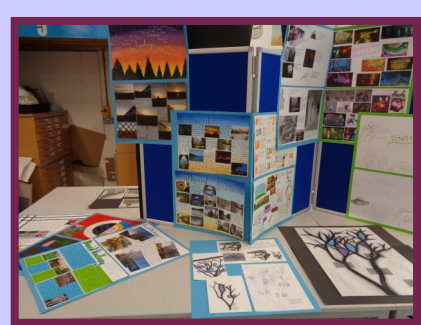
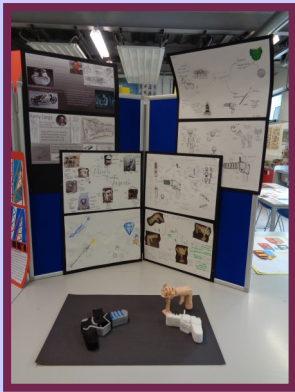
29th June was The District Athletics, it was a fantastic day out for the students to compete on such great facilities, with every single one of them putting in 100% effort against other schools in the Borough. Overall we didn't finish in any top 3s for our school scores, but we did have some very good individual performances from our students. Bailey came 4th in the long jump, Leo came 4th in the 100m hurdles, Leighton came 3rd in the long jump, Jayden came 1st in the 100m, Charlie came 2nd in the 200m, Owen came 3rd in shot, Sophia came 3rd in the 300m, Layla came 1st in the 800m, Tansy came 2nd in the 800m and Zac came 1st in the 800m.

Well done to all who took part.

Art exhibition

In celebration of the hard work and creativity of our Year 11 Graphics, Engineering and Art students, we held a final show of the work they had produced on Monday 11th July. We are all exceptionally proud of the effort they put in and the outcomes they made.

Below is just a small sample of the fantastic work.



Languages trip to Barcelona

On 22nd June we went to Barcelona with 3 teachers and 33 students. We went from Heathrow airport to Barcelona airport. We travelled with British Airways and the flight was really fun and comfortable. We got to the hotel and we sorted out who was staying in which room. Once we had sorted it out we went to a supermarket (Mercadona) across the road to buy some lunch. The Spanish food was amazing. Once we had eaten our picnics, we went back to the hotel and got ready to go in the swimming pool. This was one of the best parts of our trip. We all had a great time in the pool. Then we got changed and went out for tea - it was a delicious buffet! We all really enjoyed it!

The next day we had breakfast at the hotel, went on the coach to a port, and met a guide who took us on a guided tour around the city. We went to a market called La Boqueria, a famous church called La Sagrada Família and in the afternoon, we visited Parc Guell. Once we were back at the hotel we went in the pool because it was too hot to do anything else! Afterwards, we all had food in the hotel restaurant and then we went to the beach and watched fireworks. The fireworks were to celebrate San Juan. This is a big festival which celebrates the start of the summer holidays in Spain. We even got a McDonalds in the middle of the night!!

On the 3rd day we went to the Barcelona football stadium, Camp Nou, where we saw lots of amazing things such as trophies, football players' shoes and tops and lots of other amazing things. We also went into the football ground and watched some players have a match. We then went to Barcelona's national Art Museum where we saw super views of the city. Afterwards, feeling hot, we went back to the hotel to go in the pool again! Later on, we all went back to our rooms to get ready for tea. After tea, we went to the beach, did a bit of shopping, played football on the beach and on our way back to the hotel we enjoyed a delicious ice cream!

On the 4th day we all had a pool day which was really relaxing. Everyone went in the pool and we even managed a few swimming races! Later that afternoon, we got on the coach to the airport to go home. We got back to school around 02:45 am.

Written by Lilly-Jane, Harry and Ruby (Year 7).



Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh scheme with Aldercar High School continues to gather pace!

The Year 9 Bronze Award cohort of students have been superb recently. On 24th June, seventeen Bronze Award students tackled their local practice walk. They have been training for the expedition all year, picking up skills such as map reading, navigation and campcraft. They planned a local walk from school to Codnor Park reservoir, mainly by footpaths. They trekked 8 miles there and back, enduring blisters and insect bites, but making great memories! This was all in preparation for the real thing, which was a week later on 2nd and 3rd July. The Bronze group met up at Middleton Top car park where they were briefed on their expedition before setting off into the glorious Derbyshire countryside. They walked about 8 miles, before pitching tents and cooking a warm meal on a camping stove. The site even had Alpacas and Peacocks! The next day they packed up and began their return journey, finishing at Cromford canal wharf. Well done to all students who achieved this remarkable feat!

We also have a small Duke of Edinburgh Silver cohort now, who did their practice walk and camp on the weekend of 8th July. The surroundings were not quite so scenic (they camped two nights on school grounds!) but they really pushed themselves to the limits on a very hot weekend. They cooked, pitched tents and walked around 15 miles in very hot conditions. They should now be well prepared for their real silver expedition in September.

Well done to all Duke of Edinburgh participants.

If any current Year 8 students are interested in doing the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award when they start Year 9, look out for the assembly run by Mr Waite with details on joining up.



Enhanced Resource Facility news

Aldercar High School ERF students celebrated the Queen's jubilee by having afternoon tea in their department. As you can see from the photographs, they had a great time.



Enhanced Resource sports day

Students from our ERS facility had a great time on their sports day.



Diary dates

Event	Date
Inset day 1 - school closed to students	1st September
Year 7 and Year 12 students return	2nd September
Year 8, 9 10 and 11 students return	5th September
Year 13 students return	6th September
Year 7 photographs	7th September
Literacy event	22nd September
Duke of Edinburgh Silver exhibition	23rd September
Wembley trip	26th September
Year 11 Geography fieldtrip	27th September
Year 13 visit to Coventry University	27th September
Year 5 and Year 6 open evening	28th September
Inset day 2 - school closed to students	30th September
Post-16 open evening	11th October
Last day of half term	21st October
Half term	24th -28th October
Students return	31st October
Performing Arts trip	2nd November
Tutor review afternoon - school closed early	9th November
Remembrance bell/Post-16 dress to impress day	11th November
Inset day 3 - school closed to students	2nd December
Year 11 Post-16 interviews begin	6th December
Year 11 parents' evening	8th December
Year 13 UCAS application deadline	10th December
Hearing Impaired Christmas performances	15th December
BSL pantomime	19th December
Student gratitude week	19th - 22nd December
Last day of term	22nd December
Christmas break	26th December - 6th January



Aldercar High School are proud to have chosen the Head girl and Head boy, Deputy Head girl and Deputy Head boy for the academic year 2022 -2023