

# Aldercar High School Newsletter

March 2024

This Spring term has proved to be an extremely busy but short one for both our students and our staff as can be seen throughout this newsletter.

As we approach the Easter holidays, our Year 11 and Year 13 students who are due to sit terminal exams in May and June are working increasingly hard on their revision. It is really important that students in these year groups take every opportunity available to them to thoroughly revise for their exams as well as complete coursework to the very best of their ability.

Our Year 9 students have completed their options process allowing us to build their timetables for Key Stage 4. It was brilliant to see so many students and their parents attending the Options Evening in order to get to grips with the subjects on offer.

With regards to staffing, we would like to thank Mrs Sullivan (Head of Humanities) for the significant contribution that she has made over the last 17 years at the school and we wish her well in her new venture. In addition, we would like to wish Mr Filin (Science teacher) well at his new school as he leaves us at the end of his contract.

We thank you for your support over the last few weeks. We wish you and your family a happy Easter and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 15th April 2024.



Mrs Hatto Head Teacher

## Post-16 news

### **New Post-16 centre**

After two years in the planning and waiting for other works across the school to complete, we are thrilled to be able to announce that Aldercar now has a bespoke sixth form area, only accessible to Post-16 students. Our suite of rooms already includes a Post-16 teaching classroom, a computer room, study room and a Post-16 coffee shop and, after the summer, we will be proudly opening our Post-16 library and wellbeing room too. Our students also have exclusive use of a large outside area, perfect for socialising and gathering to study in the warmer months. This is a fantastic resource for our students and already the difference is huge. We look forward to welcoming Year 11 students for their upcoming taster days and to seeing them make the most of our facilities in September.

### **York**

All Post-16 students have opportunities to visit higher education and further education institutions and this year, we have forged links with a new provider, York St John University. In February we took most of Year 12 and some Year 11 students for a look around this fantastic campus. From the old to the new the buildings and campus impressed us all and, despite the rain and cold, we could really appreciate what a friendly place it was. After the tour and a criminology lecture to get us all thinking, there was enough time left to explore that lovely city of York with some souvenirs being purchased - from ghosts to cakes! Up next will be a visit to one of the Nottingham Universities after May half term.

### **DD day**

On the back of our visit to York, students in Year 12 began their 'Next Steps' journey with a morning focused on what their opportunities were for Post-18. Speakers from Nottingham Trent University, University of Newcastle, Derby college and Nottingham college all delivered information on what Post-18 education and training looked like, how to apply and what to consider. After Year 12 exams are over, there will be further opportunities for our students to explore what lies ahead.

### **University applications**

Well done to our Year 13 students who have applied for university in this cycle. All of them have received offers for their chosen courses - as wide and varied as veterinary nursing, criminology and nursing. We're looking forward to seeing them all progress to their next steps. Students not applying through UCAS are able to access careers interviews and support with applications through the Post-16 team.

## Post-16 news

### **Year 11 event**

All students who have applied for Post-16 have had acceptance letters and, by the time you read this, will have had the first in a series of induction and welcome events. We are thrilled at how many Year 11 students have applied to stay with us next year and have some exciting events planned for them. If any Year 11 hasn't applied but would like to, we do still have a small number of places left and would welcome their application. Forms can be found in the Post-16 area of the website.

### **Tutors**

As the school says goodbye to Mrs Sullivan, Year 12 tutor groups will be changing slightly. Level 3 students will now all be with Mrs Marriot and level 2 students will have a bespoke registration week with Mr Goddard and Mrs Brighton. Information will be sent out to level 2 parents to keep you updated on when students are expected in school.

### **Subject Focus - Criminology**

Criminology remains one of our most popular subjects - and with good reason!

In what other subject would homework consist of watching crime documentaries and reading about criminals? Whilst it's not all about the media, we look at case studies and try and get to the heart of why? Why do people turn to crime? What is crime and how do we work as a society to reduce it. This term we were lucky to have a lecture from Dr Sarah Ashworth, a forensic psychologist who talked both about her pathway to working in the field and her work - as diverse as offering advice to courts and judges and formulating plans to help convicted criminals treat their mental health issues.

Students who study criminology go on to work in the police, law and crime prevention as well as using it as a qualification to support entry to a wide number of degrees.

Students are welcome to come and chat to Miss Cracknell if they have any questions about this fascinating subject.

## Visit to Aldercar Infant School

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we took a group of sixth form students to read to the children at the local infant school. Our students were fabulous role models, reading to children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 as well as joining in with their World Book Day activities. The infant school made us feel very welcome and we look forward to returning soon.

## Embark World Book Day activity

Following the success of our World Book Day activities, students from Year 7 participated in the West End Book Day event in school on Thursday 14th March. The day consisted of a workshop run by actors who have performed on London's West End and enabled our students to learn how to act like a real professional! A fantastic time was had by all and we can't wait for next year's event!



## 'Book and Biscuit' after school event

As an extension of our World Book Day celebrations this year, we invited Parents and Carers in to read with their child after school on World Book Day. We had a range of pre-loved and new books for sale, plus interactive activities & a 'reading corner' where Parents/Carers could share a book with their child. Thanks to all who came to help make it a lovely evening. Look out for further Reading Events later in the year.

## Accelerated Reading news

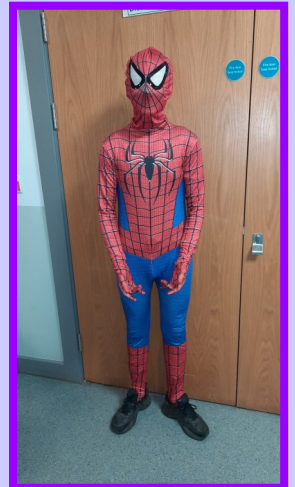
The library is a great place to explore a wide range of both fiction and non-fiction and we continue to encourage all students to get reading. This term students have been busy reading and quizzing in the library and lots of them have made it onto our Word Millionaires Board. A special mention to Ollie L. on becoming a 'Word Multi-Millionaire', having read over two million words, and to Joshua K. who is our new 'Word Millionaire.'

A fantastic achievement for both students.





## World Book Day in pictures





## Iceland Trip

Over February Half Term, the Science and Geography department took thirty six students to Iceland to see some of nature's wondrous sites.

They did plenty of waterfall chasing, visited the LAVA centre built after the famous Eyjafjallajökull 2010 eruption, visited the Geysers and saw one of the world's few remaining glaciers.

It was the trip of a lifetime!





## Adventure Expeditions residential

March 11-13th Year 9 embarked on a residential with Adventure Expeditions to the Peak District. Day one they undertook weaselling, a combination of caving, scrambling and climbing around some of the tighter sections of Higgarr Tor. It was cold and drizzly with a fair few puddles to wallow through but they did an amazing job and had a whale of a time. Day 2 was a walk along the Great Ridge and the trip drew to a close by abseiling from the Monsal Viaduct. We also did a walk up Cave dale which was almost a river. Lots of slipping over and muddy feet. 2 students took on the challenge of extending the walk to summit Mam Tor, the highest hill in the Peak District.





## Is Heanor a Clone Town?



This month Year 9 students were given the opportunity to visit Heanor to complete some Geography Fieldwork. They have been finding out if Heanor would be classed as a Clone Town which means that the majority of shops are chain stores rather than independent businesses. They were able to conduct a clone town survey as well as house price and type surveys for two different areas. Students were also able to get their lunch in the town and had an enjoyable time with their friends, as well as completing the work of course!

One student said 'we had a brilliant time and were able to walk around exploring the town in our groups visiting shops and talking to local shop owners who were interested in the work we were doing'. Back in class students will learn how to write up an enquiry by presenting data, analysing results and writing a conclusions and evaluation.

## British Sign Language week

Our Hearing Impaired students have done us proud once again!

During British Sign Language week we had the theme 'promoting BSL' We visited local primary schools including Howitt and Codnor to teach them a song in BSL. We were warmly welcomed and all the students thoroughly enjoyed it.

We also did a blue themed cake sale at break time and sold raffle tickets to raise money for the British Deaf Association.





## Sports news

The Year 7 boys football team went to the second half of their 7 a side tournament at Ripley Academy. Despite the results, the boys did really well with the tough opponents and conditions. Stand out performance from Jack B. Results were:

Aldercar High 0 John Flamsteed 1

Aldercar High 0 Heanor Gate 2

Aldercar High 0 Swanwick Hall 0

### Boccia Competition

Some of our ERS students from the Phoenix Centre went to Alfreton Leisure Centre to take part in the yearly Boccia competition.

The students played amazingly well and came 2nd and 4th place against Heanor Gate, David Nieper, Alfreton Park and Swanwik hall. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves it was a great day.



## Breakfast club trip

The success of breakfast club continues. A selection of drinks, toast, bagels, pastries etc. are available and it is open to all of our students, every morning from 8am-8.20am.

To celebrate the success of the Breakfast Club, we attended our termly outing at Christmas to Asda. We were joined by Matt Crawford CEO of Embark Trust and Jack from Langley Mill food bank. We want to say a huge thank you to Sharon (the community champion) at Asda for hosting a Christmas themed dinner. Our students were greeted with Christmas crackers, Christmas themed accessories and bottles of Shloer on every table, followed by full Christmas Dinner and tubs of Heroes. The students were a credit to the school, and all had a great time.

We look forward to our next trip out as we break up for the Easter holidays.



Breakfast Club has been seen to improve attendance, punctuality, behaviour and provides a positive start to the day.

Please come along, Everyone is welcome





## Performing Arts evening

On Wednesday 13th March we held a performing arts evening at Aldercar High School. The evening was a success and students who performed should be very proud of what they achieved.

We were treated to dance solo's from Annie-Mae A and Mila Q, a piano solo from Esme R, the school choir performed Hallelujah and a moody Stayin' Alive. The final event of the evening was a self-written pantomime performed by the drama club.

Unfortunately we were too busy having fun and forgot to take any photographs.

## Embark Dance Festival 2024

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March Embark held a dance festival at New Horizon Church in Langley Mill. The event was hosted by The High Sheriff of Derbyshire who opened and closed the event. The Kristian Thomas Company compared the event and brought along performers from the touring cast of Six the musical. There were children and staff from 17 different schools that have links to the Embark Academy.

Aldercar High School was represented by Mila Q and Annie-Mae A. Both girls danced amazingly well and had lots of fans from our infant and junior school by the end of the day. We were also presented with a certificate from the High Sheriff of Derbyshire which will be displayed in our reception area.



## Animal Care Trip

The Post-16 Level 2 Animal Care group have had a great opportunity to experience what it would be like to work at a farm park.

Bluebell Dairy Farm in Spondon allowed the Animal Care group to meet all the animals on the farm and carry out many husbandry tasks such as cleaning, feeding and watering the animals. They will also, over the next few weeks, get a chance to handle and restrain a variety of different animals. All these skills are needed for them to complete their course. I am very proud of them all for getting stuck in and completing all tasks to their best ability.





## ERS trip to Tattershal Lakes

The ERS department had a fantastic trip to Tattershall Lakes. There were twelve students who took part in the five day long residential.

They tried activities including crazy golf, went swimming every day, had walks around the site and enjoyed their lunch every day at the spit fire pub. In the evenings they enjoyed the hot tubs, a buffet, a disco and fun and games at the lodges.

There were also fighter jets on a daily basis flying over between 3:00pm and midnight, which the students got used to throughout the week.



## Aldercar and Langley Mill Academy Deflympics



On Tuesday 12th March we were accompanied by Langley Mill Academy to celebrate Deaflympics. We played a variety of sports and met Paul Allen a local deaf cricket celebrity.

We even got awarded personalised medals! A great day was had by all.





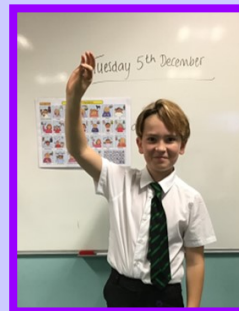
## BSL signed Advent activity

Key Stage 3 students took part in learning a different Christmas sign throughout December.

Heanor Park Care home, which is part of Ashmere Family of Care Homes, very kindly donated money to help us buy chocolate rewards for our BSL advent activity that we ran throughout December.



Each form were given a chocolate advent calendar. Every day in December students learnt a new Christmas themed sign. For every sign learned the students received a chocolate.



The last week of term, form tutors were asked to choose their top two 'super signers' who were each awarded an extra chocolatey prize!



## Diary Dates

Event	Date
Last day of term	28th March
<b>EASTER BREAK</b>	<b>29th March-12th April</b>
Student return to school	15th April
Year 10 and Year 12 mock exams	22nd April- 3rd May
Year 12 Parents evening	24th April
Year 9 Science trip to Twycross zoo	1st May
May day bank holiday school closed	6th May
First exam on common timetable	13th May
Year 10 Geography fieldtrip	15th May
Year 10 and Year 12 work experience week	20th-24th May
Last day of half term	16th February
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>27th-31st May</b>
Students return to school	3rd June
Year 10 Geography fieldtrip	14th June
Year 7 Science trip to The Space Centre	19th June
Year 10 parents evening	19th June
Inset day school closed to students	21st June
Inset day school closed to students	24th June
Year 11 Post-16 induction day	25th June
Year 7 London Trip	25th -26th June
Year 6 transition day 1 and evening	27th June
Hearing Impaired theatre trip	27th June
Year 6 transition day 2	28th June
Sports day	2nd July
Post-16 trip to London	2nd July
Year 11 Prom	5th July
Post-16 ERF trip to Skegness	8th-12th Jly
Ormonde celebration evening	8th July
Gregg celebration evening	9th July
Post-16 celebration evening	10th July
Shipley celebration evening	11th July
Howitt celebration evening	12th July
Hearing Impaired residential	15th-17th July
Last Day of Term	23rd July
<b>SUMMER BREAK</b>	<b>24th July-2nd September</b>
A-Level results day	15th August
GCES results day	22nd August