

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

As can be seen from this newsletter, this term has been an extremely busy one. Our Year 11's and Year 13's have been kept busy whilst working towards their final exams. Our Year 6's have taken part in transition days, transition evenings and sessions in preparation for Year 7.

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

With regards to staffing, we wish: Mr Anthony Ashley (Teacher of Law); Miss Broughton (Teacher of Performing Arts and Music); Miss Clarke (Tutor); Mrs Doyle (Teacher of English); Miss Fretwell (Reading TA); Mr Gillies (Teacher of Engineering and Technology); Mr Hutchings (Cover Supervisor); Miss Jackson (Tutor); Ms Limb (Teacher of IT); Mrs Stephens (2nd in Maths) and Mrs Warren (Midday Supervisor) all the best in their new posts.

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

Inset Day 1	Wednesday 4th September 2024
Inset Day 2	Thursday 5th September 2024
Inset Day 3	Friday 6th September 2024
Inset Day 4	Monday 6th January 2025
Inset Day 5	Friday 20th June 2025
Inset Day 6	TBC

The new school year will begin on Monday 9th September 2024 for all students. All students should arrive on site for no later than 8:20am prompt 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.

On 10th September 2024, we would like to invite Year 7 parents in for a 'Welcome to Aldercar High School' evening at 6pm. This will comprise of:

- an introduction to key members of staff in school;
- knowing where to find the information for what is being taught in school;
- key dates for the academic year for the year group;
- meeting your son/daughters tutor.

On 10th September 2024, we would also like to invite Year 10 parents in for a 'Welcome to Key Stage 4' evening at 7pm as an introduction to study habits and skills at Key Stage 4.

These sessions are designed to further build the partnership between parents and school so that working together, we get the best possible outcomes for your children. As a result, we strongly recommend that you and your son/daughter attend at the time relevant to them.

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

Mrs Hatto Head Teacher

Post-16 news

UCAS

With exams over and Year 13 just waiting for their results, it's been time to focus our preparation for the future on Year 12. To support them in deciding what is best for them Post-18, we have had a number of events. This started with a University visit and drop down day way back in February and we were pleased to welcome NTU in again to deliver workshops on choosing a university and writing a personal statement. All Year 12 students have been invited to mentoring with Miss Cracknell or Mrs Brighton to support them as they head into their last year of schooling. A further university visit and other workshops, including one for parents, will be happening in the autumn term. All students have been asked to use their summer to research potential courses, apprenticeships and degrees and we can't wait to get them started on their next steps journey.

Oddballs

In May, we invited in the Oddballs charity to talk to our young people about testicular cancer as part of the PHSE programme focusing on health and wellbeing. It was a really informative talk and raised awareness of issues around teen and young person's health. We look forward to seeing them again next year. Alongside this, we will be welcoming the school nurse in to focus on mental health in July and, in September, the local policing team will be delivering workshops on safety, misogyny and staying safe.

Exams

It feels like exams have been going on forever with the Year 12 exams in April followed closely by A-levels. We would like to congratulate all our Post-16 students on their conduct and attitude towards exams and in particular, our Year 12 students on a fantastic set of mock results. Once in Year 13 there will be further mock opportunities to ensure our students are as well prepared as possible for their external exams in 2025.

Post-16 news continued

Induction

On what was the hottest day of the year, we welcomed in our Year 11 students for the second of their two induction mornings, a chance to find out more, confirm choices and collect summer work. Students still wishing to come who might not yet have applied are welcome to apply through the website or see Miss Cracknell on results day to find out more. Year 12 begin school on Monday 9th September where they will have a full day of activities before starting lessons on Tuesday 10th September.

Blended pathway

Year 10 (soon to be 11) will have a range of opportunities to introduce them to Post-16 starting, for some at the end of this term with a taster in Post-16. Details will come out in the new term about open evenings, tasters, interviews and other events to help our students make the right choices at Post-16.

As an exciting new addition to our offer, Year 11 students next year will have the opportunity to apply for our unique blended learning course. This 3 year programme allows students who don't quite meet the usual entry requirements for level 3 (5 grade 4 and above) but still have aspirations to do A-levels, Level 3 BTECS and progress to university, to complete a bespoke selection of additional level 2 courses and one level 3 course in Year 12 followed by 2 further level 3 courses in Year 13 which will be completed at the end of Year 14. This is a fantastic opportunity for those students who traditionally might not have been able to attend sixth form to complete level 3 courses as a stepping stone to university. Please see the flyer over the page and get in touch if you have any more questions.

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Want to find out more?

call 01773 712477

or visit

[www.aldercarhigh.co.uk/
sixthform/](http://www.aldercarhigh.co.uk/sixthform/)



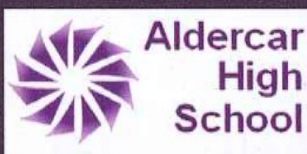
AHS Post-16 Aspirations Pathway

- Are you unsure of what you want to do and would like an additional year to develop your skills?
- Are you worried that your GCSEs won't be quite enough to get you onto the A levels or level 3 courses you would like to do?
- Do you have high aspirations but need more time to develop your academic skills?

If any of these are you then you may benefit from our new 3 year bespoke pathway allowing students with 3 GCSEs at grade 4 or above (including English) to work towards 3 level 3 (A level or equivalent) courses as well as adding at least 2 level 2 qualifications in the first year.

What does the course give you?

- *Pastoral support*
- *Academic support*
- *choice of level 3 courses*
- *resit maths*
- *two additional level 2 qualifications*
- *AQA Unit Award Scheme*



ALDERCAR HIGH SCHOOL

Post-16

School ready, life ready.

Want to find out more?

call 01773 712477

or visit

www.aldercarhigh.co.uk/sixthform/

3 year Aspirations Pathway

Who is it for?

- This pathway is for students with high aspirations who, for whatever reason, may not achieve enough GCSE grades for entry into other post-16 routes but still aspire to complete A levels and other post-16 courses and aim to go to university, higher apprenticeships or into academic professions.
- Entry requirements are just two grade 4's or above (in any subjects) plus English or English literature at grade 4 or above.

What will you study?

Year 12

- Resit GCSE maths (where appropriate)
- 2 further level 2 qualifications such as animal care
- Begin one level 3 qualification (usually an applied course such as sport, art, health and social or criminology)
- Unit awards from AQA to build skills alongside bespoke independent learning units.

Year 13

- Complete the second year of your first level 3 option
- Begin 2 further level 3 courses chosen according to need and GCSE results
- Further Unit awards to build skills
- Pastoral and academic support from tutors and pastoral staff

Year 14

- Complete remaining two level 3 courses
- Continuing pastoral and academic support
- Support to apply for university and higher apprenticeships
- Dedicated weekly work experience time

What could it lead to?

University

A wide variety of university courses would be open to you dependent on success in level 3 courses

Higher level apprenticeships

Many apprenticeships are only open to students who have studied at post-16, these often pay more and have better prospects.

Degree Apprenticeships

Fully funded and paid apprenticeships with day release to university, often in the forces or police and other services.

Bronze, Silver and Gold awards

We are really proud of our Year 7 students for their positive contribution to school life as well as their commitment and dedication to learning so we are keen to reward them during our weekly assemblies. Here are some groups of lovely students who have achieved their silver and gold certificates and badges and are now aiming for their platinum badge, our most prestigious award.

We have no doubt they will be wearing one with pride very soon.





School attendance update September 2024



Support first approach

Missing school means children fall behind. This not only impacts on their future achievement, but also adds additional stress and worry as the pupil attempts to catch up. This can affect their mental health and that of their family.

Schools will always try to offer support to remove barriers to attendance before considering any form of legal intervention however they can only do this with the support of parents. If you do not engage with this support the school may feel that they have no choice than to request the Local Authority consider taking legal action against you for failure to secure your child's regular attendance at school under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996

Attendance categories

95 to 100% - as expected
91 to 94% - at risk of persistent absence
80 to 90% - persistent absence
51 to 79% - at risk of severe absence
Less than or equal to 50% - severe absence

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the below changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines for unauthorised absence after 19th August 2024.

Education Penalty Notices are issued to the parents of statutory school age children and can be issued to each parent or carer who is deemed liable for the child's absence from school.

• First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

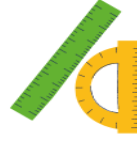
• Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

• Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.



Can my child take a holiday in term time?

The simple answer is NO - pupils can only take leave of absence during term time if this is approved in advance by the school. Leave taken without permission may result in a penalty notice and or prosecution.

Aldercar and Langley Mill Community event

On Friday 5th July, the school hosted a large-scale community event where a number of our community partners visited the school Sports Hall and put on a fantastic roadshow for students to attend.

Students were able to take part in numerous activities throughout the morning including wearing beer goggles and seeing the effects of alcohol on the body, getting advice on sporting opportunities available in the community over the summer holidays and taking part in rope throws with the fire service. We would like to extend a huge thank you to our local PSCO Alfie Smith for organising the event and for his work with the school and our local community.



Year 7 London trip

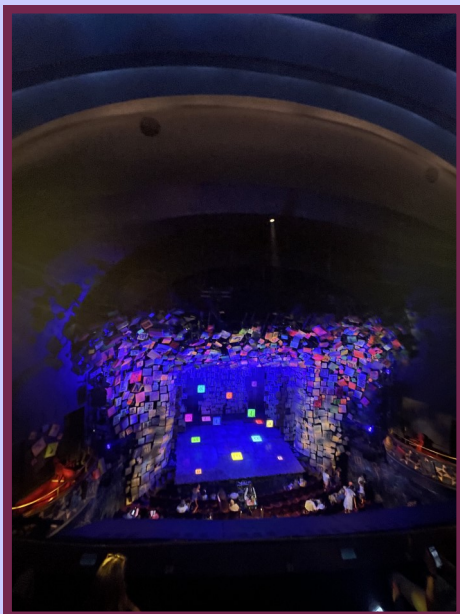
At the end of June, forty-four Year 7 students travelled to London for two days of activities all related to the English curriculum. The trip introduced students to some examples of careers which studying English could take them to, and allowed them to develop their understanding of literature and its reference to the real world. Here is what one of our students wrote about it;

On Tuesday we visited The Globe Theatre. We watched the actors warm up for their show and then enjoyed a drama workshop focused on the Shakespeare play Macbeth. We then walked to St James' Park and some people went to Buckingham Palace (where they saw the Japanese emperor arrive). After that, we went to Pizza Hut for dinner before going to watch Matilda the Musical at the Cambridge Theatre.

On the Wednesday, we all had breakfast at the hotel and then we headed to the local park to get outside in the sunshine. Then we went back to the hotel, collected our belongings and drove to Harry Potter World. First we entered a big hall that had an enormous dragon in it.

We went into a room where we watched a video about the making of Harry Potter and when this finished, the screen went up and we saw the doors to the Great Hall, from Harry Potter. We went into a massive space full of objects from the film, such as outfits, props and sets. We saw the Forbidden Forest, where there were giant spiders and mist. We saw the train, where someone screamed like a little girl (it was me), and went into the gift shop.

We all had an amazing time.



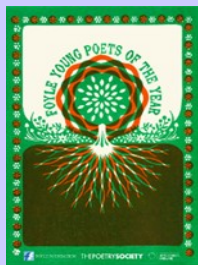
Library news

Accelerated Reader news

The following students deserve our congratulations for their fabulous achievements this year. A massive well done to Ollie for reading over 3 million words (and over 50 books) since September! An amazing achievement. Joshua, Lacey, Oluwaseun, Rockie and Piper also deserve congratulations for becoming Word Millionaires.

We will be having a special breakfast in the library to celebrate all of their achievements, along with the achievements and progress of other selected students who read regularly and have shown commitment and enthusiasm this year.

Foyle Young Poets Award



The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award is one of the biggest and most prestigious poetry competitions for 11-17 year olds in the world. This term in library lessons, students were given the opportunity to write poems for submission. We had lots of wonderful entries, with special commendations going to Isabelle, Isabella and Emily.

Summer Reading Challenge

Students are invited to take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge to keep up their good reading habits over the holidays. In September, prizes will be awarded to all students who complete the challenge. There is also a competition running alongside this for students to take a photo of themselves reading in an unusual place. Entries will be displayed in the library in September and there will be a prize for the most unusual entry!



Empathy Day

Here in the library, we took part in Empathy Day on Thursday 6th June - an annual celebration designed to develop empathy in children through reading and sharing books. As part of the Empathy Day activities, there were displays of the Read for Empathy collection of books as well as drawing and colouring activities, and students were invited to make empathy resolutions using the bunting provided by the Empathy Lab. We also had a live screening of a special assembly with Michael Rosen at lunchtime, explaining the role books can have in promoting empathy in young people.



Science trip to the Space Centre

The Year 8 students got to relive their space topic from Year 7 by exploring The National Space centre. The Space Centre had interactive galleries which allowed students to get hands on with, discovering the past, present, and future of space exploration. They all especially enjoyed the planetarium which provoked lots of "wows" and mesmerised students. Our students were a pleasure to take, all staff and students had a fantastic day.



Expectation cards

This term we have introduced the expectation cards into school. These have been a great success. We can see there has been a positive culture shift where students are getting recognition for the positive impact they have in school. We have seen students actively searching for opportunities to "do the right thing" and to date staff have given out in excess of 400 positive marks since the cards have been launched. We are seeing some students gaining several positive cards, therefore increasing their chances of success in the prize raffle at the end of term. Bryson (Year 7) is our first student to receive 4 positive cards.

Unfortunately there are a few students receiving negative marks. However, there is always opportunity to turn this around. Even if students do make mistakes and receive some negative marks, as long as they then change their attitude in order to make a positive impact around school, their card could still be completed as positive overall.

The expectation cards will be back next year with bigger and better raffle prizes!

Year 7 published stories

After entering his Year 7 class into a poetry writing competition, Mr Garratt was impressed to see that everyone who submitted got chosen for publication. Another book for our well stocked library. Well done all and....keep writing!



Year 11 Prom 2024

This year's prom was held at Horsley Lodge on Friday 5th July. This was a great event allowing us to say goodbye to our Year 11 students and wish them all the best in their future.



Sports news

The Key Stage 3 girls football team took part in a small tournament against Heanor Gate and Belper School back in April.

It was a thrilling 0-0 draw against Heanor Gate, which could have gone either way with plenty of chances. Aldercar's team deserved to win the game against Belper school but just couldn't get the goal. The girls played fantastically.



Also in April, the Year 8 boys football team played a tournament on a very cold evening. They lost the first two games and drew the next three, leaving them in 4th position overall. They played well together and tried really hard. Well done.

Some students in Key Stage 3 took part in an afternoon of activities and sports held at David Nieper Academy. The students had been picked from being recognised in PE and after school sports clubs. It was a fun and enjoyable afternoon.



A group of our under-13 girls played a football fixture on Wednesday 15th May. The rain poured but the students battled through, drawing against Heanor Gate 2-2 and winning against Ecclesbourne school 2-1. Well done to all the girls who played.

It was a pleasure to take a group of students to Moorways Stadium at the end of June for the district athletics. They performed amazingly. Showing an exceptional attitude and impeccable behaviour, our students all did fantastically.

Mr Holloway took a group of Year 7 students to Eyes Meadows in June to take part in some orienteering. The students experienced a challenging, yet enjoyable morning.



Sports news continued...

The Embark Olympic Workshop was held at Derby Arena on Thursday 27th June. This was a fantastic experience for the eleven students who attended. They all joined in with judo, a nutrition session, a psychology session, badminton, strength and conditioning and the big one: cycling around the velodrome track. What a great day.

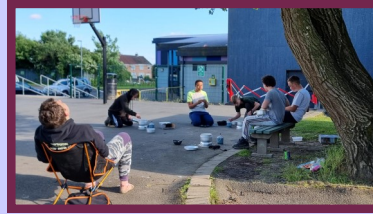


Sports week was a huge success this year. All students across the school competed for their house against other students in their year group. They competed at football, benchball, dodgeball, archery, basketball, badminton and rounders. The final event of the week was a staff house rounders competition that the students watched and the ice cream man was on hand to provide refreshments. At the end of the staff rounders Shipley was announced the house winner for 2023/2024. Well done Shipley.



Duke of Edinburgh

Eight Year 10 students had a silver Duke of Edinburgh practice earlier this term. It was a pleasure to see them all grow in confidence through their involvement all weekend.



Twenty nine Year 9 students completed their Duke of Edinburgh training, and so were able to head out to Derbyshire for their bronze expedition qualifier on 4th and 5th July. The weather was warm but very breezy, making for challenging conditions when putting up the tents at Barnfarm Campsite, Birchover. All students were fantastic! They covered around 8 miles hiking on each day, fully loaded with kit. They really improved their navigation and teamwork skills. Well done to all involved.



All participants must now finish their remaining sections and then hopefully some will choose to do the silver award!

Any current Year 8 students who are interested in joining should watch out for the assembly at the start of Year 9.



Powerlifting champion

Freddie in Year 10 has won a world record and a European record in powerlifting. After training for less than a year with the British Powerlifting Federation based in Langley Mill, and in the British team, he is the current world record holder in his age group for bench-pressing a huge 87.5kg. He's also the European and British record holder in his age group, for deadlifting a whopping 202.5kg. Marcus Griffiths, the president and founder of the British Powerlifting Federation, said Freddie is incredibly talented and one of the very best in the world. What an amazing achievement: well done Freddie.

For more information check out the British Powerlifting Federation's website: bplf.co.uk



Sustainability day

On Tuesday 25th June Aldercar High School held its first Year 7 Sustainability Day. Students were split into three teams (Wildcats, Lampreys and Pine Martens) based on the most endangered animals in the UK today. They learned about why these animals are at risk and then took part in a day of sustainability-themed workshops around the school. They made recycling stations, designed recycling characters and built bug hotels with a twist. In English, students read about sustainable issues and took part in a nature walk around the school grounds, which highlighted the amazing species on our doorstep and the importance of nature for our well being. Well done to all who took part, we were very impressed with their creativity and enthusiasm throughout the day.



Breakfast club news

Our breakfast club embarked on a lovely trip to Asda. We were welcomed by the wonderful Sharon, the community champion from the supermarket. All the students were seated with Easter table cloths and napkins and bottles of Shloer and cream eggs as treats.

One of our students also celebrated their birthday on the visit and he was congratulated with singing and cake.

This was another brilliant breakfast club lunch.



Howitt charity



Over this academic year, Howitt have raised £165 for their house charity, The Dogs Trust. They have held various events



Pen Pals club

Students from our Pen Pals club had a lovely day out at Nottingham Castle. They met up with students and teachers from Carmel Bunnan Tong Secondary School, Hong Kong and explored the history of Nottingham.

The next day they visited Shipley Country Park. Students had a great day on a climate change scavenger hunt, practiced fire building and saw an incredible taxidermy and fossil collection with @ypfmead. They had a brilliant time meeting and spending time with their friends from Hong Kong.



Chess Club

The King is dead, long live the King

Thursday 12th July was an evening of high tension in C14 as the third annual Aldercar chess championship took place. It was the largest tournament so far with a total of 14 players of all ages; grim, steely eyed sixth formers testing their mettle against the exuberance of Year 7.

The opening rounds displayed some thrilling chess. Laura marked herself as one for the future, Rohans' careful deliberations struggled in the speedy chess format and, resident maverick Liam dazzled with flashes of Fischer-like genius, laying waste to all before him.

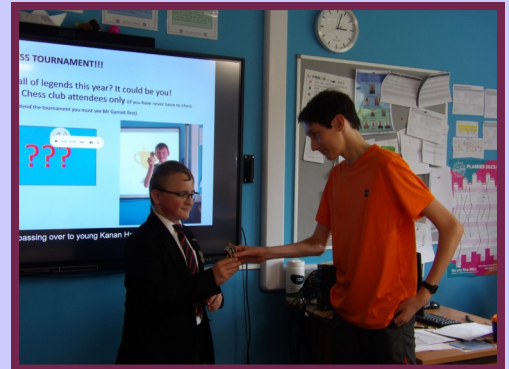
Finally however, four heroes emerged. Kanan, the enfant terrible of Year 7, Jess, displaying all the wiliness of age, the afore mentioned Liam and, Vinny, whose astonishing rise to power reminded everyone of why he had been one of Aldercar's ones-to-watch in 2023.

In two gruelling semi-finals, Kanan managed to beat Liam, his victor from the opening rounds. However, controversy erupted in the other semi-final with the referee, Mr Garratt, overruling Kanan's technical win on time (Vinny has lodged his complaint with the World Chess body and we await the results.)

As the final showdown commenced between Jessica and Kanan a hush descended. Move followed move, followed thrilling move, keeping the spectators rapt with their mutual chess wizardry.

Time however, waits for no man (or woman), and with the match locked, the beeps of the Jess's chess clock signalled Kanan's triumph - a result that was met by an eruption of resounding cheers.

So, a new star has arisen in the chess firmament. But what is this? Last year's winner (and this year's joint referee and organiser) Toby, whispering of a comeback in 24/25?! The whole chess world awaits what is to come.



British Sign Language

All the students from the Phoenix Centre went to Aldercar Infants and Langley Mill Juniors to perform some songs in British Sign Language (BSL) in their assemblies. They have been working hard and learning songs in BSL all year and they did an amazing job.



Phoenix Centre trip

Sixth form ERS students enjoyed a week away to Southview Caravan Park in Skegness over the 10th - 14th June. The students enjoyed lots of activities ranging from crazy golf, 10 pin bowling, visiting the Sealife Aquarium, Natureland, arcades, having fun on the beach, swimming and even singing on karaoke. All of the students thoroughly enjoyed their time away.



Diary dates

Event	Date
A Level exam results day	15th August
GCSE exam results day	22nd August
SUMMER BREAK	24th July-3rd September
Inset day	4th September
Inset day	5th September
Inset day	6th September
Students return to school	9th September
Year 7 Welcome to Aldercar	10th September
Year 10 Welcome to Key Stage 4	10th September
Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award	13th - 15th September
All student photos	24th September
Year 5/Year 6 open evening	26th September
Year 11 introduction to Post-16 evening	26th September
Year 11 Geography trip to Holderness Coast	3rd October
Year 7 parents evening	17th October
Year 12 settling in evening	17th October
Last day of half term	25th October
HALF TERM	28th October-1st November
Students return to school	4th November
Remembrance day / Post-16 Dress to Impress day	11th November
Year 10 and Year 12 parents evening	5th December
Post-16 open evening	11th December
Last day of term	20th December
CHRISTMAS BREAK	23rd December-3rd January

Wishing all of our
students and their families
a lovely summer holiday