

This newsletter is a celebration of the vast array of opportunities that have been available to our students over the past term ranging from Year 7's re-enacting the Battle of Hastings, a variety of year groups taking part in various sports activities and students taking part in a variety of competitions.

We have been very impressed with how well our Year 7 students have settled into life at Aldercar High School. They have quite clearly risen to the many challenges that their first term at Secondary School has thrown at them.

Our Year 11 students are preparing for their Mock exams in January and we look forward to discussing the progress that students are making with parents in February.

Our Year 13 students are in the process of applying for their next steps in their career, be it at university, to embark on an apprenticeship or starting work. Year 13 are also preparing for their mock exams after Christmas.

With regards to staffing, Mrs Biggs (Exams and Data Manager), Mrs Cracknell (Head of Post-16), Miss Haslam (Teacher of Humanities), Miss Mourelatou (Exams and Data Officer) and Miss Wakefield (Cover Supervisor) are all moving on to exciting new challenges in January. We wish them all the best with the next chapters of their careers.

In January we look forward to welcoming: Mr Atkin (Teacher of Design and Technology), Dr Austin (Teacher of Humanities), Mrs Raichura (Teacher of Psychology and Criminology) and Mr Rayner (ICT and Business Head of Faculty) to the school.

Finally, we hope that you have a wonderful festive season, and we all look forward to seeing all of our students when they return in the New Year on Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 8.20am.



Mrs Hatto Head Teacher

Post-16 news

UCAS

Year 13 students are well into their university application process - students are applying for courses as widespread as film and TV, policing and natural sciences. Students not aiming for university will be given bespoke support after Christmas with applications for apprenticeships, colleges and further work or training.

Interviews

Year 11 students are currently being supported in their Post-16 choices. All of them will be interviewed by a member of SLT who can offer guidance as to the best route for them and offer information on our Post-16 centre here.

Remember, school sixth forms offer significant support and guidance for the difficult transition from GCSE to higher levels of study and here at Aldercar High School we have a fabulous bespoke centre with a Post-16 refectory, toilets and study facilities as well as an outdoor space. Contact Mrs Brighton if you would like more details on what we offer.

Open evening

It was wonderful to welcome so many to our Post-16 open evening in November. Staff loved the opportunity to talk to students and share their passion for their subjects. We do still have some places available but would highly recommend that you get applications in as soon as possible for these so that we can ensure we can meet everyone's needs. Remember, we have courses at level 1,2 and 3 and can usually accommodate most level 3 (A level or equivalent) combinations. If you're still not sure about the best route for you, please talk to one of the Post-16 staff about the options available and let us be the place that guides you through the next stage of your education.

Dress to impress

Remembrance day is always a chance for students to show their respect and this year record numbers of Post-16 students 'dressed to impress' in their smartest business clothes to show their respect. What fantastic role models to the rest of the school.



Post-16 news

Volunteering

Nine of our Year 12 students have been busily training to become YIPIYAP tutors to work with students lower down the school. From safeguarding to pedagogy the training course has taught them how to be tutors so that they can share their knowledge and expertise with students in other years. Many of our other Year 12 and 13 students volunteer and we love the fact that they act as role models, share their knowledge and are available for younger years to work with.

Charity

In PHSE, Year 12 students were given a 50p challenge - to turn 50p into as much money as they could do for charity. Two groups in particular have created fabulous events and the total raised is already near to £60 - from nothing!

Molly carried out a wonderful raffle with donations from staff and students and Imo, Joel, Marcus, Will, Ollie, Yahya and Freddie braved the cold wet November break time for a sponge throw - 20p to throw sponges at Imoh and Will. I think it's fair to say that the record breaking money raised shows just what our students can do.

Animal Care and Hearing Impaired trip

Post-16 Level 2 Animal care students and hearing Impaired joined together for a visit to Matlock Farm Park. The students were able to gain knowledge from experts about the caring for, feeding, correct animal accommodation and handling of animals in a real-world setting to further enhance their studies.



Embark awards

Aldercar High School nominated 8 well-deserving students for outstanding achievement at the annual Embark Awards on 22/10/24 at the New Horizon Centre in Langley Mill. Whilst the awards have been going for a number of years, this is the first time that the secondary schools were invited.

It was great to see our awards winners on stage alongside students from 4 years of age through to 18 as well as sharing the stage with a number of special guests. Congratulations to all of our award winners.

Family Award - an outstanding contribution to family at school or at home.

Will is a big part of our breakfast club community. He is always there in a morning with a smile on his face and is always polite and friendly to staff. Will is also there for the younger students to chat to and will offer support to the staff when they need it.

Integrity Award - always doing the right thing when no one is watching.

Alex has made an amazing start to life at Aldercar, always working hard and giving his all despite the challenges that he faces. Alex always has a smile on his face and is a pleasure to have in the school. Alex achieved the highest number of merits last year across the whole of the school.

Teamwork Award - an outstanding contribution to a team either in or outside of school.

Harry and Lewan have spent hours of their own time planning and preparing two scare room events which were based in school. Harry and Lewan planned the adverts, props and special effects themselves. They showed great leadership of a team of Year 9 students when running through their roles and responsibilities. They raised £165 for the Dogs Trust UK.

Success Award - achieved great success over the last 12 months.

Freddie is our exceptionally modest British and European Powerlifting Record Holder.

Freddie is a regular at the British Powerlifting Federation Head Quarters based out of Langley Mill. He is very dedicated giving up many evenings for training and often his weekends to compete in national events. Freddie is in the British team and is the current British and European record holder for deadlifting in his age group. Unsurprisingly, Freddie spent his Year 10 work experience helping out at the centre. The manager, has said that Freddie is "incredibly talented" and "one of the very best in the world".

Well done Freddie!

Embark awards celebrations

Stand Out at the Heart of the Community - done something special in their community.

Kristina and Kelsey always help out with our more vulnerable students in school. They both volunteer their time to help with extra-curricular activities. In addition, both Kristina and Kelsey undertake considerable amounts of charity work outside of school for the community.

Special Award

Poppy has embraced every part of school life and has spent 5 years making us smile with her infectious laugh and enthusiasm for school. Despite facing many challenges, Poppy has worked really hard to get to the end of Year 11 and we are really happy to see that she has joined our Sixth Form Centre this year.



Library news

Autumn Term in the Library

Another term has flown by. The library continues to be a hive of activity, with the Year 7 and 8 students coming in regularly for library lessons; children across year groups diligently completing homework and students visiting at break and lunchtimes to read or play board games.

Book Buzz

This term we took part in the Bookbuzz programme, a fantastic initiative aimed at promoting a love of reading among children. Bookbuzz is organized by BookTrust, the UK's largest children's reading charity. They are dedicated to transforming lives by promoting reading for children and families.

As part of the scheme, all Year 7 and Year 8 students had the opportunity to choose a book to keep, choosing from 16 great titles. The Bookbuzz programme is a fantastic way to get our Key Stage 3 students excited about books.



Murder at Midwinter by Fleur Hitchcock and Steady for This by Nathanael Lessore proved to be the most popular book choices.

Accelerated Reader News

The following students deserve our congratulations for their fabulous achievements with their reading so far this year. A massive well done to Ife in Year 7 for reading over 2 million words since September. An amazing achievement.

Semilore and Scarlett in Year 7 also deserve congratulations for becoming Word Millionaires. The following students: Joshua in Year 8, Katie, Zofia, Phoebe, Ava and Lexxi in Year 7, Piper, Oliver and Summer in Year 9 have also made it onto our Word board for reading well over 100,000 words this term. Well done! We will be celebrating their successes with them in the library during a special tea party at the end of term.

Library news continued

Halloween Short Story Competition

We had lots of wonderful entries for our Spooky Short Story competition. Congratulations to our winner Scarlett (Y7) and our runners-ups Macauley (Y8) and Phoebe (Y7). Please take the time to read through Scarlett's winning entry.

As I ran through corridor after corridor of ominous paintings, I felt their all-seeing eyes staring down at me. "I'm going to get you," an eerie voice echoed through the windowless halls. "There is no escape little girl." My heart was pounding so loud, I thought he might hear it through the walls. Oh no! A dead end! It'd also be the end of me. He loomed up behind me whispering "Come to me join me little girl." I tried to scream but no sound came out...

When my mum said we were visiting recently deceased Great Uncle Drake and Great Aunt Frankie in their mansion in the country, my immediate response was, "No, mum do I have too???"

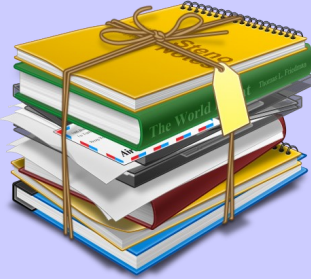
As usual, her answer was, "Of course, honey at the will reading Drake and Frankie named us as owners of the mansion so we're moving!" Much to my dismay she wouldn't budge, so three hours later we pulled up on the drive of Drakewood House. With a storm raging above us, mum insisted we only brought in our overnight bags. Lightning painted the walls as I creaked up the rickety old staircase towards my new room. For the first time ever, I started to wish I was back in my cramped bedroom on the 7th floor of my old flat. Despite the crackling fire, I felt the cold seeping in under my duvet. Unable to sleep after a few hours of tossing and turning, I clambered out of bed to get a snack. Suddenly, the corridor to the kitchen seemed longer and infinite. I felt the eyes of countless portraits following my every step. It was then I heard the eerie voice. "Run, run little girl, you'll never escape." No matter how far I ran, there was no escaping the eerie voice echoing through the endless halls. Creaking footsteps seemed to follow my every twist and turn through these dark corridors.

As I ran through corridor after corridor of ominous paintings, I felt their all-seeing eyes staring down at me. "I'm going to get you," an eerie voice echoed through the windowless halls. "There is no escape little girl." My heart was pounding so loud I thought he might hear it through the walls. Oh no! A dead end! He loomed up behind me whispering, "Come to me join me, little girl". I tried to scream but no sound came out. Jagged sharp fangs edged towards me, and it was the last thing I saw.

Library news continued...

Book Sale

To celebrate Green Libraries Week, we held a second-hand book sale in the library. Lots of students came along and bought books raising money for the library.



Winter reads

We have a great selection of festive books in the library available to be borrowed. As the temperature drops and we spend more time indoors, don't forget to spend some quality time with a good book. Reading can bring so much enjoyment, and can help support and maintain a good mental health and well-being.

To encourage students to get reading over the holidays, we will be running a Christmas reading challenge. Students will be able to pick up a copy of this from the library before we break up for Christmas.



Spelling Bee competition

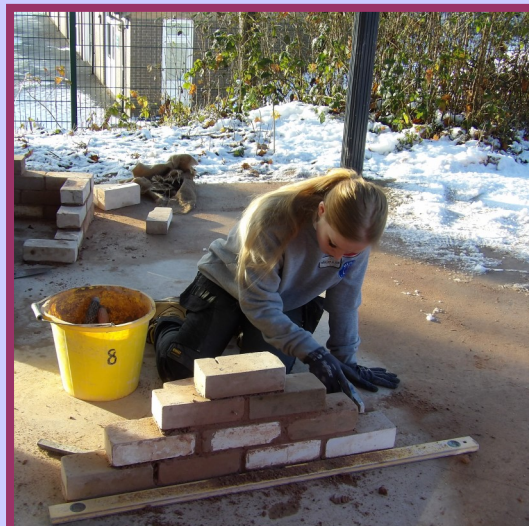
Another exciting spelling showdown, this years winners were Zofia, Year 7, Kymirah, Year 8 who scored full marks for his heats and faultless in the finals and Daisy Year 9.



New outdoor construction area

Aldercar's new dynamic construction area - a purpose built canopy costing approximately £11500. Key Stage 4 students have been enjoying their new brickwork area which allows them to enjoy constructing various walls of different sizes and shapes whilst under cover.

We have recently created the very first Arc D' Aldercar - which compares to other famous landmarks such as - Arc D' Triomphe and Marble Arch. Eva in Year 10 created the arch which displays a very high level of skill and patience .



Geography field trip

The Year 11 Geography fieldtrip took place on 3rd October. The Geographers went to Hornsea on the Holderness Coast. This was to complete their compulsory physical fieldwork for their GCSE Geography examination. They were measuring the sediment accumulation either side of the wooden groynes (fences built to catch sand moving down the coast). This sand will build a wider beach to protect the town. Students collected a range of data to analyse back at school and we even found time to get some fish and chips for lunch!



Yorkshire Sculpture Park trip

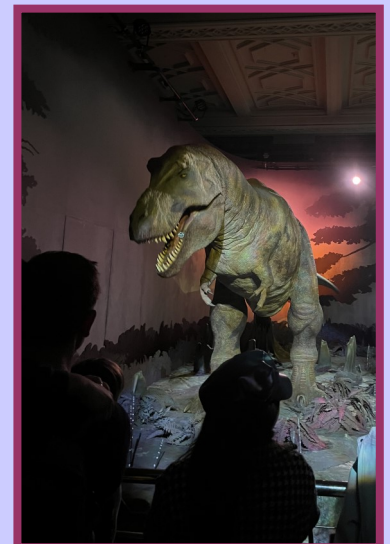
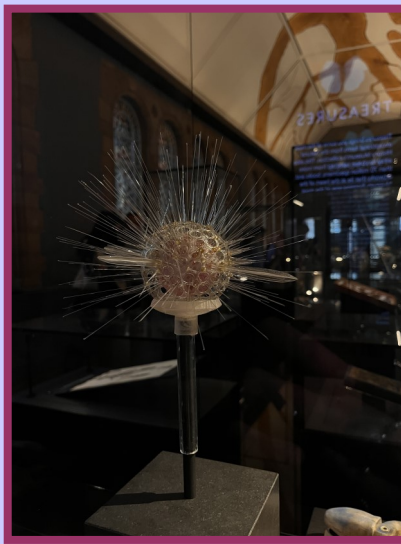
On Friday September 27th, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Art and Photography students spent the day out at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. They experienced a wide range of sculptures which they sketched, analysed and photographed to help their studies and develop their understanding of what makes something Art.



Science trip to The Natural History Museum

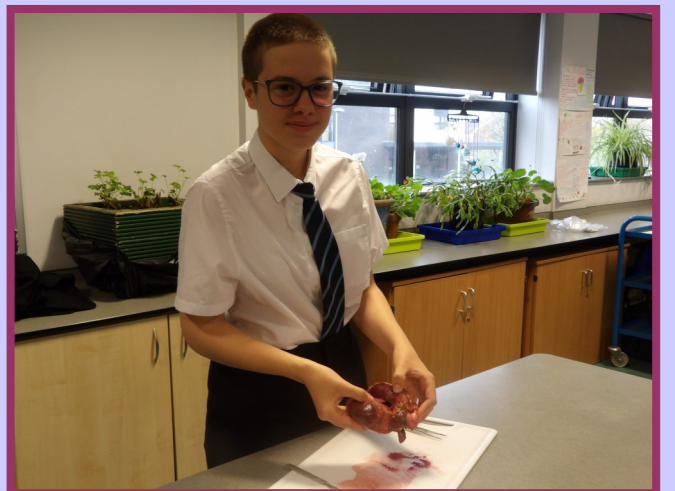
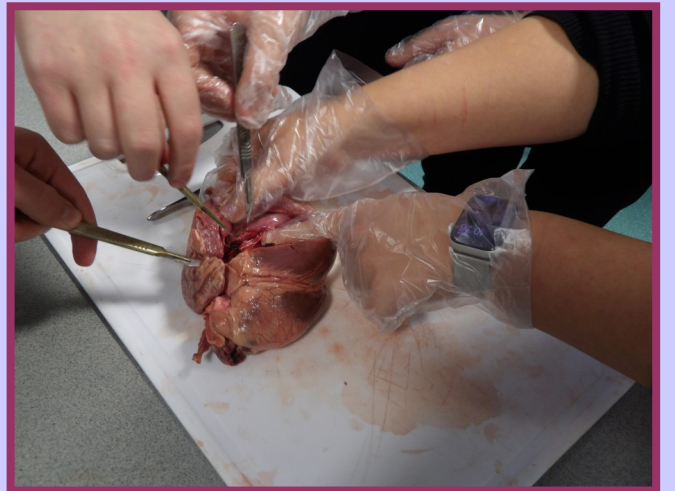
In October, Year 11 students got the chance to travel down to London and visit the Natural History Museum. Our journey down there was eventful with traffic but the wonderful coach driver gave us a commentary tour around London and some nice sights of Kensington.

When we finally arrived at the museum the students were off and exploring the animal exhibition and dinosaur exhibition.



Heart dissection

Students in Year 10 have been learning about the organisation of our bodies. They have looked at the respiratory system, digestive system and the circulatory system. While studying the Heart, they were treated to dissecting some hearts. Some really enjoyed doing this. We paid particular attention to the chordae tendinae, "the heart strings" and how these work with the valves.



Year 7 Battle of Hastings re-enactment

Year 7 students took part in the annual Battle of Hastings re-enactment.

Students made either a Saxon or Norman sword and shield and acted out the core phases of the battle. All students were well behaved and had a lot of fun getting messy. However, this is actually part of helping our students understand the battle and come to a conclusion on the significance of different events in preparation for them writing an historical essay, 'William won the Battle of Hastings because of his superior tactics' Do you agree?



What is a 'Morals' lesson?

What is Philosophy and Ethics?

Many of you will have noticed that once a fortnight, all students have a lesson coded 'Mo' on their timetable. I realise this may be unfamiliar to a lot of people and wanted to share a little bit about what this actually is.

The code stands for 'morals' and represents the study of Philosophy and Ethics (unfortunately PE had already claimed those initials). Traditionally, many of you would be more used to seeing this as RE.

In Philosophy and Ethics we aim to encourage students to engage with many of the 'big questions'. Some of these are philosophical questions such as: Where do we come from? Does God exist? What happens when we die? Others are ethical or moral questions, for example: Where do ideas about right and wrong come from? Attitudes to marriage and divorce, opinions on abortion and euthanasia, attitudes to war etc.

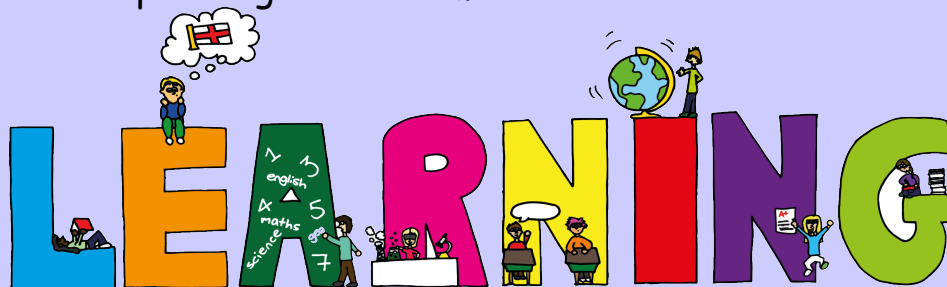
The study of religious and non-religious world views is a core component of a rounded academic education. This has long been recognised as essential in Britain. Indeed, one could argue that it is more important now than ever. Young people today are growing up in a world where there is increasing awareness of the diversity of religious and non-religious world views and they will need to live and work well with people with very different outlooks from their own.



Philosophy and Ethics, taught well, provides a safe space to discuss, experience and respond well to difference - a space where students can engage with controversial issues and learn to disagree respectfully with each other. This can play a key role in fostering good relationships between different groups within the school and in later adult life.

All information about our curriculum is on the school website but if you ever have any questions please get in touch.

Mr Hassall



Sports News

A shout out to Emily and Layla in Year 11 who have made the cut for the Derbyshire County Schools football team, a massive honour!

Also Emily and ex-student Zac made the bench for Chesterfield ladies and Notts County respectively.

Also ones to watch are Darla in Year 8 and Scarlett in Year 10, who were put forward by the school to the FA Women's Talent ID 'future Lioness' programme and were successful. They went to a Midlands trial to be put forward to potentially play for the England lioness teams at their age group. They are currently waiting to hear how they have done.



Back in October Mr Holloway took 8 students to Alfreton Leisure Centre to take part in some indoor athletics. The students took part in throwing, jumping and running, they were successful in all the events.

Mr Holloway took a group of Key Stage 3 students to Belper School to take part in a cross country competition. The students all did really well. The star performer was Darla in Year 8 who came 5th out of 40 girls.



At the beginning of November, Mrs Powdrill and Mrs Lord took a group of students to Swanwick Sports College for a Key Stage 3 SEND football tournament. What a fantastic time they all had.

AHS 1 Swanwick Sports 2
AHS 2 Ripley Academy 1

AHS 2 David Nieper 3
AHS 1 Swanwick Hall 1



Sports News

A mix of Year 10 and Year 11 students played the Amber Valley Year 11 futsal tournament on 11th November.

The results did not reflect our efforts. They played really well all evening and were unlucky in a couple of the games not to come out with more.

We lost the 1st game lost to Ripley 3-1 having been 1-0 up (Ripley went into win it over all). We lost the 2nd game lost 2-0 to John Flamsted. We won the 3rd game against David Neiper 2-0 and in our Final game we lost to Heanor Gate 1-0.

Another good night of futsal with the Year 8 and Year 9 team, battling hard and unlucky not to get something out of the competition. A few schools dropped out so we just played 3 games at Alfreton Leisure centre.

Game 1 - we drew 1-1 against Heanor Gate

Game 2 - we drew 1-1 against David Neiper

Game 3 - we lost 1-0 against John Flamsted

Also, a good night of futsal with the Year 8 team battling hard against some very talented teams. Game 1- we lost 3-0 to Swanwick Hall

Game 1 - we lost 3-0 to Swanwick Hall

Game 2- we lost 3-1 against Ripley

Game 3- we lost 1-0 against David Neiper

Game 4 - we won 1-0 against John Flamsted

Game 5- we lost 2-0 to Heanor gate

At the start of December Mr Holloway and the Year 7 students attended Sleetmoor United FC for a Year 7 boys Football tournament. The team did really well coming up against some really talented teams.

AHS VS Heanor Gate 0-4

AHS VS John Flamsted 0-1

AHS VS Swanwick Hall 0-1

Despite only scoring one goal and the cold temperatures the boys really enjoyed it.



Christmas Concert

On Wednesday 11th December we held a Christmas Concert. The evening was hosted by some of our Year 11 actors and Miss Wakefield playing the role of Bouncers. They took character inspiration from John Godbers play, Bouncers. We started off with Choir singing 'Warm this Winter' and 'Band Aid'. Then we welcomed Cora and her excellent violin to the stage as she performed 'Walking in the Air'. Next, we had Victoria singing a solo 'Snowman' by Sia an excellent achievement for someone only in Year 7. Faith then entertained us with a street dance. The school band were next to play with 'Seven Nation Army' and 'Creep'. Then we welcomed Victoria back again as she performed our second street dance of the evening. Ollie was next playing drums to 'Sweet Child of Mine', followed by Tia with her lovely and lively performance of 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree'. Mila then showed off her amazing dance skills, dancing two dances - a Rumba and a Jive. Our last solo singer of the evening was Jasmine with an upbeat version of 'Last Christmas'. The final act of the evening was the drama club who performed their own Christmas play inspired by The Grinch. It was an enjoyable evening and we had a large crowd of parents, pupils and family members in the audience supporting.



Community event

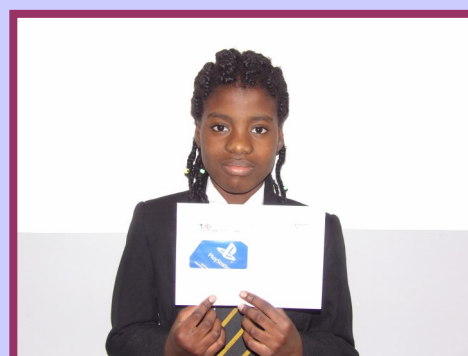
On Friday 22nd November the school and our local PCSO Alfie Smith hosted an ASB (Anti Social Behaviour) event in school for students in Key Stage 3.

The aim of the event was for our community partners to come into school and showcase the fantastic work that underpins our local community and for students to see what services are available to them in their local area. The event was a fantastic success and we look forward to the next one in the summer term!

Thank you, Alfie!



Students could enter competitions and raffles at the event. Some of the prizes included PlayStation vouchers, well done to all who won.



Breakfast Club

The success of our breakfast club has been continuing since September and we have now doubled in our numbers. We are continuing to serve toast, bagels, pastries, fruit and fruit juice with the generous donations from Langley mill food bank and Warburtons. Without their support we wouldn't be able to feed the students of Aldercar high school. We would like to remind everyone that our breakfast club is open to all students from 7.50-8.25am every day Monday to Friday.

A special shout out goes to the breakfast club staff, who give up their time to run this fantastic club within school.



Student Council

The new Aldercar school student council are working hard to give other students a voice. A new suggestion box has meant that students can put forward questions/thoughts that they would like discussing at the council meeting.

The meetings happen once every half term and the students from across Years 7 to 11 are building good working relationships in order to improve Aldercar High School for everyone.



Charity cake bake

Kelsey and Kristina in Year 11 held a cake sale to raise money to buy selection boxes and chocolates for our local food bank, to say thank you for the food they send to help with our breakfast club and all they give to the local community. They raised £48.50 which bought lots of selection boxes to send to the food bank.



Open Evening

Aldercar High School Open day was a huge success again this year, with departments ready to meet prospective students and their parents and to answer any questions they have.

We appreciate that choosing a school place for your daughter/son can be quite a daunting task, so we will look to help and support you through the process as much as possible.

If you would like to book a tour of the school or have any questions please telephone 01773 712477 or email info@aldercarhigh.co.uk



Visit from The Mercians

On Friday 8th November we welcomed The Mercians, a band from Leicester, into our school. They performed some of their own songs as well as some cover songs to every year group in the school. They even got to dedicate their cover of 'Valerie' to our own Valerie in Year 11.

The Mercians also gave some excellent advice about mental health, misogyny and kindness as part of their visit.



Merit awards

Students gain merit awards for going above and beyond. When they reach 250 merits they receive a Bronze certificate and badge. Eden was our first Year 7 student to reach that goal this year. Eden is an outstanding student and a credit to Aldercar High School. Eden is a great example of fantastic attendance, always wearing the correct smart uniform, has all the expected equipment every day and follows our school expectations in lessons and around school. Keep up the fantastic work Eden.



Remembrance day events

To commemorate Armistice Day we had a short service lead by Mrs Hatto, Mr Blake and Mrs Powdrill including a 2 minute silence at 11am.

The Post-16 ERS centre had created a lovely poppy display which is pictured below with some of our students who attend cadets. and are looking very proud in their uniforms.



Duke Of Edinburgh awards

In September, six students successfully passed their Silver Expedition. It was a rocky start with 1.8km/hr pace, being herded out, barbed wire incidents and an evacuation, however, they pulled it together, looked out for each other and didn't give themselves food poisoning for the next 2 days (even following 6.30am starts). Well done to all who took part.

Craft club

Twelve students in Year 7 and Year 8 continue to attend Mrs Mee's and Mrs Roe's after school nurture group.

There are a range of activities provided including craft, cooking, and games to promote self esteem, confidence and building friendships and relationships.



Post-16 Inclusion Centre news

The Post-16 Inclusion Centre enjoyed an afternoon at Heanor Miners Welfare as part of the Intergenerational Project.



Christmas sign and sing performance

At the start of December, 13 students performed as part of the Sign and Sing performance at Derby Theatre in front of an audience of over 400 people!

They all did incredibly well and they made the school proud. We also bumped into ex-pupil Wesley who had helped to organise the event and performed a duet and a solo.



Christmas Tree

Some of our high merit achieving Year 7 students decorated the Christmas tree in reception. Didn't they do a lovely job.



British Sign language exam

The hard work of our Year 11 students over the past few years has now paid off, they have passed their signature level 1 awards in BSL. Well done !



Hearing Impaired News

On Wednesday 16th October, deaf pupils visited the Deaf Mosaic photography exhibition at Artcore Gallery in Derby. The exhibition featured photographs of deaf people who all had very different careers. The message of the exhibition was that deaf people can do anything they want to, if they have the right support. Pupils loved this exhibition and found it incredibly inspiring. They also participated in a clay workshop with ceramicist Kathryn Borg and made a clay tile of their initial.

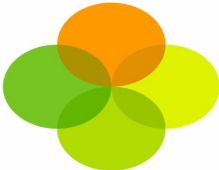


Diary Dates

Event	Date
CHRISTMAS BREAK	23rd December-3rd January
Inset Day	6th January
Students return to school	7th January
Year 11 and Year 13 mock exams	13th - 24th January
Year 13 UCAS deadline	15th January
Careers Fair	21st January
Year 11 Post-16 application deadline	24th January
Year 9 options/parents evening	30th January
Year 9 options deadline	12th February
Year 11 and Year 13 parents evening	12th February
Last day of half term	14th February
HALF TERM	17th-21st February
Students return to school	24th February
Year 13 finance evening	25th February
Year 9 Geography fieldwork week	3rd - 7th March
World book day	6th March
Year 7 parents evening	12th March
Year 8 parents evening	27th March
Last Day of Term	4th April
EASTER BREAK	7th-21st April

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