

This Spring term has proved to be an extremely busy 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 work 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 Mr Waite (Associate Assistant Head) for the significant contribution that he has made over the last 14 years at the school and we wish him well in his new venture. In addition, we would like to wish Miss Harding (Teacher of the Deaf) all the best for the future as she leaves us for her maternity leave before embarking on a new work challenge.

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 Tuesday 22nd April 2025.



Accelerated Reader news

The library offers a rich variety of fiction and non-fiction, and we continue to encourage all students to make reading a priority. This term, students have been actively reading and completing quizzes in the library, with many earning spots on our Word Millionaires Board.

Special recognition goes to Ife in Year 7 for becoming a 'Word Multi-Millionaire' with over three million words read; alongside Maja in Year 8 and Semi in Year 7 who have each read two million words this academic year.

Word Millionaires also include Katie, Lexxi, and Scarlett from Year 7, each having read over one million words. We're pleased to report that this is the highest number of word millionaires we've ever had.

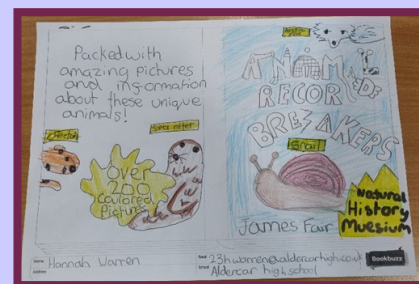
Read for good

We are extremely lucky to have been gifted a 'Brilliant Box of Books' by the charity Read for Good. Read for Good ensures children and young people have access to wide range of brand new and vibrant books to help them discover a life-changing love of reading. They provide books to schools, medical and community settings in need. We applied for the books and were successful - we can't thank Read for Good enough. We are excited to be adding this fab selection of new books to our library shelves.



Bookbuzz competition

Year 7 and Year 8 students were asked to design a cover for the Bookbuzz book they had received as a gift just before Christmas. The entries were of a really high standard. Congratulations go to Hannah in Year 8 for her vibrant design. Well done to runners-up Brian and Ava in Year 7.



Geography field trip

On 12th and 13th March, Year 9 students went on their Geography field trip to Heanor to find an answer to the enquiry question - 'Is Heanor a Clone Town?'

Despite the showers, students were able to collect data on house type, price and shop type too. This data was then compared to National Census Data to see if Heanor is similar or different to other towns across the country.

Even though there are many chain stores in Heanor, it is good to know that the results showed Heanor as a border town that has a mix of chain stores and independently owned businesses. This is good for the local economy and the students learnt why this is the case and why they should support local businesses when they can. Although house prices are cheaper than the national average, the amount of house types were found to be similar and supported the clone town idea.

Well done to all students that took part!

Year 10 work experience

Two students attended a four day work experience residential at an Army camp base. They had a great experience and definitely looked the part.

Year 10 students will be out on work experience for the week beginning 19th May. This will be a great opportunity for them and, for some, may lead to future careers.



World Book day

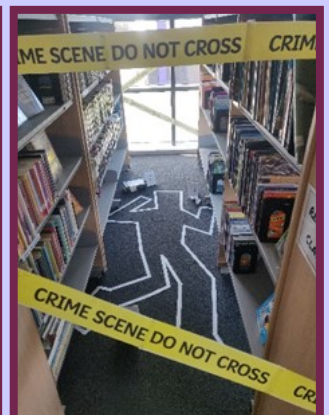
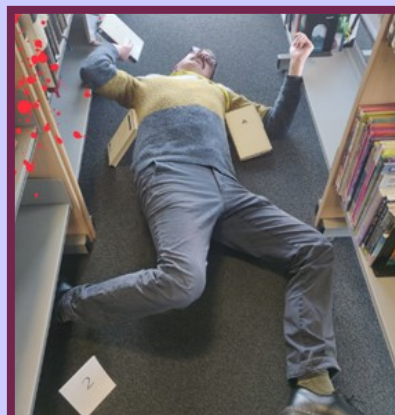
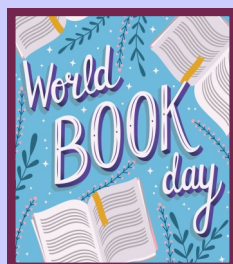
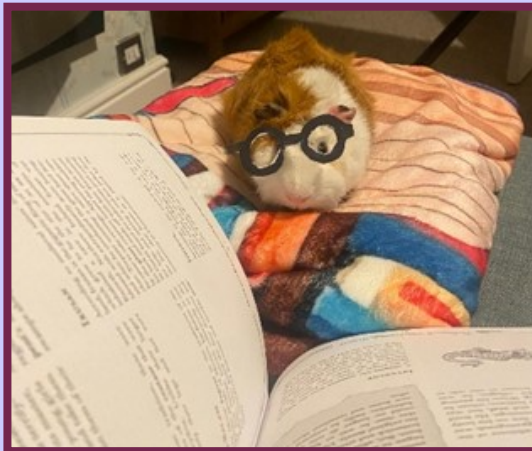
On Thursday 6th March it was World Book Day and we celebrated in style. Both staff and students came dressed up as their favourite book character. We had a fabulous turn out with some really great costumes. The best dressed prizes went to Spencer in Year 7, Kanan in Year 8, Jasmine in Year 9, Louii in Year 10 and Daisy in Year 11. Well done to you all!

Throughout the day, Key Stage 3 students completed an activity booklet on a variety of books. Prizes for the best booklet went to Ryley in Year 7, Isla in Year 8 and Olivia in Year 9. Congratulations also goes to Scarlett in Year 7 for winning the photo competition for a picture of her pet guinea pig reading. The standard of all the entries was really high and it was difficult choosing an overall winner. Additional congratulations to Hannah in Year 8 for correctly guessing "Holes" as the mystery "Book in the Jar."

In the lead-up to World Book Day, students took part in a murder mystery investigation, visiting the library daily for new clues regarding Mr Cowdrey's fictional demise. Dexter in Year 7 successfully solved the case, identifying Mr Wilson as the culprit.



World Book day



2025 Ski trip

During February half term, Aldercar staff and students went on the school ski trip of a lifetime!

Andorra was again the destination but, this time, the resort was Pal-Arinsal. This new venue proved a hit with fantastic slopes for both beginners and the more advanced.

Everything went very smoothly (well nearly everything - we don't talk about Stansted!) and we were even blessed with sunny days and blue skies every day. Our hotel, in the centre of the bustling, safe capital of Andorra La Vella, meant there was always plenty to do and nearly everyone enjoyed the plentiful food that was available.

Everyone made fantastic progress with staff amazed to see some students on the top of the mountain on the first day! By the end of the week, to see our pupils flying confidently down the slopes, it would be hard to believe that many hadn't worn a pair of skis before this holiday.

All in all, both staff and students seemed in agreement that this really was a ski trip to remember with us all returning with new experiences and incredible memories. It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves and making, in some cases, new friends for life.

Already, Aldercar cannot wait to start planning for the next trip! 2027 - the countdown has begun!



2025 Ski trip



Best Food Forward Year 10 project

Year 10 students have been continuing to learn about food in PSHE, where they have been looking at positive food choices, influences on food choice and eating positively at big life events. Once the students had studied this, they were invited to take part in a lesson to make Focaccia, Tomato bruschetta and parmesan crisps.



27 students at Aldercar High School took part in the practical aspect of the PSHE course, where the Artisan School of Food came in to offer them a lesson. The Artisan School of food brought all the supplies for the students to make their bread and leave it to prove. To ensure that they could take something home the company had already made a focaccia dough. The students had fun with shaping the dough and adding on garnish to present the focaccia.



The day seemed to be enjoyed by all the students and the dishes they cooked went down very well and most of it was eaten before they left the food room.

Here are some of the finished dishes that the students completed in the two hours of the session, well done to every single student that attended as they worked hard to achieve the desired results.



Focaccia bread



Tomato bruschetta



Parmesan crisps before and after

Sport news

Back in January, Year 8 and Year 9 boys had a football tournament at Sleetmoor United. They all competed really well with a special mention to Alfie and Jamie who were brilliant all evening.

Results were:

Aldercar High School VS Heanor Gate 0-2

Aldercar High School VS Ripley Academy 1-1

Aldercar High School VS David Nieper 1-1

In February Mr Briggs took some Year 7 and Year 8 students to a Basketball festival at Belper school. They got to test their skills against students from other local schools. They had a great time.



March was time for the Year 8 Football Tournament. All the students played really well, they were narrowly defeated in 3 games whilst drawing in another. They played some really good football against a good standard of opposition. Special shout out to Archie, Wills and Pearce.

Year 8 student, Josh, competed in the Royal Life Saving Society National Speed Lifesaving Championships at the end of March. The competition has teams from all over the country. Josh's relay team won all 3 relay events. Therefore they are the best 12-14 relay team in the country. Well done to Josh and his team.



St. Johns Ambulance visit

All students from Years 7-11 enjoyed assemblies run by the St John Ambulance crew in February. It gave them all an insight in to the basics of first aid, whilst also giving them the opportunity to try some of the methods.

The team then returned to do a full day workshop with 42 students, who signed up for more in depth information on helping people in need. The day was busy, but a huge success and enjoyed by all.

Finally, I would like to say a huge personal thank you to everybody who donated to the collection for St John Ambulance. We raised £300 which will support the wonderful work they do going forward.



RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch

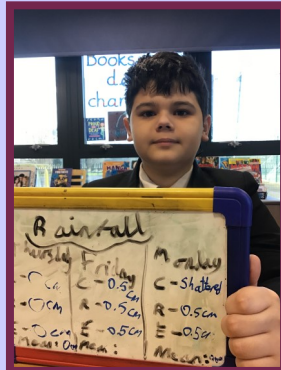
Codey, Emily and Robert have been studying the birds that visit the school grounds over the last month. To our surprise we have recorded 8 different types of birds including Robins, Blue tits and Pied Wagtails. Even more exciting we have a Buzzard, which is a bird of prey that appears most mornings on the football pitch.

We have also been using an app called "Chirpomatic", which enables you to record the sounds heard and then identifies the birds giving information about them.

The students have entered all of the birds recorded onto the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch and have also decided to enter the Wild Challenge. This involves monitoring the rainfall and designing a wind sock to be used in the school grounds.

Students and staff have all enjoyed studying the birds and have a new found enjoyment for bird watching!

We have recently discovered that we don't just have 1 buzzard but 2, which hopefully means baby buzzards!



Craft club

Students in our craft club have had a great year so far. They have been baking, crafting and learning about how to care for tortoises.



Charity hair cut

Back in February a very brave Year 10 student, Jack, had his hair cut off raising a massive £320 for The Little Princess Trust. Jack had not had his hair cut since lockdown and decided to cut it to help the trust. Well done!



Fundraising for Scouts

Jack in Year 7 has been raising money for his local scouts. He decided to sell different cakes and biscuits at break time in school. He raised £78 for his well deserving cause. Well done Jack!



Post-16 news

As we approach the Easter holidays, it's a great time to reflect on the hard work and achievements of the past weeks - mock exams, work experience searching and university offers. A well-deserved break is nearly here.

Replying to UCAS offers - students starting university in 2025

The year has started on a positive note and our UCAS students have been receiving offers from their chosen universities. These are the decisions they will need to make:

Firm Acceptance - this is their first choice and the place is guaranteed IF they meet the offer conditions.

Insurance acceptance - the back-up choice. When choosing an insurance, students should pick a course with lower offer conditions.

Decline - they will need to decline any other offers.

If they receive their last decision on or before 14th May 2025, their reply date is 5th June 2025 (except if they are using Extra to find a place).

If they receive their last decision on or before 17th July 2025, their reply date is 23rd July 2025 (including Extra choices).

They now have the difficult decisions of choosing their firm and insurance choices. The excitement from students on receiving offers after a period of anticipation is wonderful to see.

Student Finance - Applications Open

Undergraduate student finance applications are now open. Students planning to go to university in September 2025 will need to apply for Student Finance. Applications can be made here:-

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>.

Our students had a Finance Evening led by Nottingham Trent University on 18th March.

Year 12 and 13 Exams

Our Year 12 and 13 students are currently getting into the revision period in preparation for Year 12 mock exams commencing 28th April, and Year 13 live exams on 13th May. We do hope the students spend some time revising over the Easter break as well as taking some time to relax. A timetable will be posted on the website.

A Parent's survival guide to revision and Exams

Revision can become a huge source of stress and disconnection in families. Here are some tips to support your young person's (and your own) wellbeing through this period.

Set the scene and the tone at the beginning. Create a revision timetable together to help them feel more in control, less stressed and overwhelmed. Stay positive, let them lead and be supportive. Build short breaks into the timetable, family time and lots of fresh air and rest.

Set ground rules around technology - upfront. Discuss ahead of time what might derail their best laid plans; the pings of their phone. Encourage them to leave their devices in another room and set time aside for technology once the allocated work has been done.

Set up the environment for success. Give them a quiet, calm place conducive to study. Think about helping them stay organised as clutter can be distracting. Get everyone in the home on board, talking to siblings about the importance of their study schedule.

Ask them how they'd like you to support them. The most important support is empathy. Acknowledging their emotions, perhaps frustration, fear or feeling overwhelmed, helps them to address the strong feelings. Research supports the idea that acknowledgement and naming an emotion activates stress reducing chemicals in the body. It can help to relieve stress and feel they're not alone.

Stay positive. Young people want to do well and although you can support them, the motivation needs to come from within. Keep working on connections and relationships. The more positive they feel about themselves, the more likely they will try, do the hard painful stuff and develop resilience. Praising their effort, their attitude and the strategies they use reinforces a growth mindset and bolsters their self-esteem, giving them the best chance possible of getting through the stress and pressure around revision.

Post-16 news continued

Yippiyap Tutoring

Five Year 12 students have completed their Yippiyap training and are now peer tutors helping some of our Key Stage 3 students to gain confidence and inspiring them to engage with their education and reach their full potential.

Talk the Talk

Our Year 12 students attended a Talk About The Future Express workshop on Thursday 20th January. The workshop aims were to identify employability skills, develop interview techniques, nurture presentation skills and boost self-esteem. The students found this workshop to be very engaging and all participated fully. Students all came away from the workshop with a certificate.

Derby University and Apprenticeship Fair visit

Year 12 students have been invited to register for the Derby University and Apprenticeship Fair on 24th April.

BTec Animal Care

Year 12 students have successfully completed the practical elements of their Animal Care course at Bluebell Farm. This practical experience will now help towards potential employment in the future.

Dress Code Reminder

After a wet winter and spring, we are all hoping for warmer weather next term. However, we will still expect sixth formers to adhere to the dress code which is within our Student Handbook. Please can all students ensure that they come to sixth form in the correct dress code every day, including their lanyard.

ERS trip to Butlins

The Enhanced Resource Facility had a great week in Butlin's - Skegness. It is the first time we have taken the students here and all of them and the staff had a fabulous time.

They have played Archery, Crazy Golf, 10 Pin Bowling and had great fun in the swimming pool and on the slides. We have also been on the beach and we have watched some amazing shows.



Diary Dates

Event	Date
EASTER BREAK	7th - 21st April
Students return to school	22nd April
Art GCSE	24th and 25th April
Photography GCSE	28th and 29th April
Year 10 and Year 12 exams	28th April - 9th May
May day bank holiday - school closed	5th May
GCSE and A-levels	12th May - 13th June
Year 10 and Year 12 Work Experience	19th - 23rd May
HALF TERM	26th-30th May
Students return to school	2nd June
Inset day 5	20th June
Year 13 Leavers Meal	20th June
Inset day 6	23rd June
Key Stage 3 exams	24th - 27th June
Sports week	24th - 27th June
Year 8 trip to The National Space Centre	25th June
Year 11 Prom	27th June
Year 6 transition day 1 and transition evening/uniform fitting	3rd July
Year 6 transition day 2	4th July
Howitt & Shipley Celebration evening	8th July
Ormonde & Gregg Celebration evening	10th July
Year 7 and Year 8 school disco	17th July
Last day of term	24th July
SUMMER BREAK	25th July - 3rd September
A-level results day	14th August
GCSE results day	21st August

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