

Welcome to the final newsletter of this academic year. Each year seems to go quicker than the last and yet we seem to fit in more activities and events as well as the day-to-day business of the school. It has been a jam-packed Summer Term with many highlights which you will be able to read about as you go through the newsletter.

We have had the all-important exam season in full action from the beginning of May, Year 10 and Year 12 students have sat Mock examinations and Year 11 and Year 13 students have sat their GCSE and A-Level examinations. We know that students have worked extremely hard towards these exams, and we wish them all well for their future endeavours. Just a reminder that examination results dates are:

Thursday 14th August - A Level Results from 9am

Thursday 21st August - GCSE Results from 9am

Some events that have taken place are Year 10 Work Experience, whole school Sports week, Duke of Edinburgh bronze and silver practice walks, Year 6 Transition days, Year 10 Business trip to the Yorkshire Show, Year 8 trip the Space Centre, District Athletics, House Celebration Evenings and the annual Year 7 London Trip. Many thanks to the staff that have organised these events and for the students for representing the school so well in the local community and beyond.

On Wednesday 23rd July, we would like to welcome all parents to a communi-tea coffee morning at school where parents and carers are welcome to pop into school for a drink, biscuit and chat with staff and the offer of a food hamper and a uniform swap shop.

Finally, we are very excited to announce that the all-weather pitch is receiving an upgrade over the summer, and we will be blessed with a brand new 3G pitch in readiness for September. We are so excited that our students will gain top quality PE facilities to utilise all year round. If you are attached to any sports clubs and would like to let the facility, please get in touch with Schools Plus. www.schoolsplus.co.uk/aldercar.

We hope that you have an enjoyable read of this newsletter, we wish you all a very memorable summer holiday and look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 8th September 2025 at 8:25am.

Mrs J Powdrill & Mr A Blake
Deputy Head teachers

House Celebrations



Aldercar High School House Celebration Awards Evening

Awards Evenings to Remember

On two of the warmest nights of the year, Aldercar High School shone even brighter as students, families and staff gathered for our unforgettable **House Celebration Evenings**. With the sun still glowing outside and the hall buzzing with excitement, we had two nights full of celebration, talent, and pride.

Generously supported by our fantastic sponsors - **Trent Barton, Morley Hayes and Cullums** - this event was all about recognising the incredible hard work and achievements of our students.

From the start, there was an electric atmosphere. Students proudly wore our uniform, proud families smiled from ear to ear, and the stage was set for an evening of inspiration. The temperature might have been high, but the spirits were even higher!

Celebrating Success Across the School

The evening kicked off with our **Subject Awards**, where students were honoured for their passion, progress, and outstanding efforts in subjects from English to Maths, Science to Art, and everything in between. Each winner had shown something special - whether it was incredible creativity, consistent hard work, or that extra spark that lit up the classroom.

Next came the **Resilience Awards**. These were given to students who faced challenges this year but refused to give up. Through determination and grit, they proved that strength doesn't always mean being the loudest - sometimes it's just quietly carrying on when things get tough.

We were also proud to announce our **Top Readers**, students who have devoured book after book this year, showing a real love for reading. Alongside them, we celebrated those who had earned the **most House Points**, proving that kindness, teamwork, and effort truly do matter.

And of course, the night wouldn't have been complete without the prestigious **Headteacher's Awards** - handed out to a select few students who represent the very best of Aldercar. These are the students who live and breathe our values, make a difference to those around them, and lead by example every single day.



trentbarton

The logo for Morley Hayes features the name 'Morley Hayes' in a white, cursive script font, set against a black rectangular background.

House Celebration Evening Continued

Performances to Remember

Between the awards, the audience was wowed by **three incredible live performances**, each one raising the bar even higher than the last. From powerful singing to breathtaking musical talent, it was clear that the level of performance at Aldercar is going from strength to strength. Many in the audience were left with goosebumps - and more than a few had to hold back tears!

The performers deserved every cheer and round of applause, proving once again that our students are not just academic stars but shining talents on the stage too.

A Night of Pride and Promise

As the final awards were handed out and the last thank-you's shared, one thing was clear - this was more than just an awards night. It was a celebration of community, courage, and commitment.

With students leaving the hall holding certificates, trophies, and proud smiles, the future of Aldercar High School looks brighter than ever.

Here's to another amazing year - and an even more spectacular one to come.



Post-16 news

We said goodbye to the Year 13 students on the 20th June with a leavers meal in Derby. This was a really enjoyable night and there was plenty of laughter. A big thank you to those of you who took the time to send photos and messages through.



It seems extraordinary that the year 12 students are already halfway through their time in the Sixth Form, making excellent progress as mature young adults who are now the oldest students in the school, setting a strong example to the younger year groups.

Students should now be turning their attention to deciding on their Post-18 options, and deciding over summer what pathways they would like to pursue when they leave Year 13.

We have had two drop down days to discuss UCAS and Apprenticeships, and those students who are wishing to go onto university have started their applications. On Friday 18th July we have Nottingham Trent University coming in to deliver two workshops on UCAS and Personal Statements.

After September, students will also have 1:1 support from the Head of Sixth Form to help them complete their applications. Students who wish to apply for apprenticeships will also have support with searching for apprenticeships and writing applications.

Congratulations to all Year 13 students who completed their A-levels and BTECs this summer. Your dedication and hard work have been truly inspiring. We look forward to celebrating your results in August! We would like to remind you that A level results day is on Thursday 14th August and results will be available from 9.00am to 11.00am on the day. Animal Care results will also be available on this day. GCSE results for any maths and English resit's will be available on Thursday 21st August from 9.00am to 11.00am. Travel & Tourism results will also be available on this day.

Sixth Form will return after the summer break on Monday 8th September where there will be an assembly and the chance to receive their new timetables for the year.

We hope you all have a great summer and a well deserved break.

Accelerated Reader News

2024-2025 Star readers - the Word-Millionaire Club

Our students have done exceptionally well with their reading this year and deserve to be congratulated for their efforts. We've never had such a bumper crop of Word-Millionaires and even more impressively Multi Word-Millionaires.

A special well done to Ife, who has read over 4 million words and more than 108 books since September—an incredible achievement. Semi, Maja and Katie have also joined the Multi Word-Millionaire club, with Semi reading over 3 million words.

Congratulations as well to Paul, Lexxi and Scarlet, who have each reached the milestone of one million words read.

We're incredibly proud of all our readers—what a brilliant year it's been for reading.

Reading Celebration

In May, we were fortunate to take part in an online event with bestselling author David Walliams. He shared some fantastic advice about writing with our students. It was a great opportunity, and a well-deserved reward for the students who were recognised for their dedication and hard work with their reading throughout the year.



Read for Good - new books for the library!

We're happy to share that we've once again been selected to receive a brilliant box of books from the wonderful charity Read for Good. Their generous donation includes a fantastic selection of titles—from graphic novels to young adult fiction—that have already made a real impact on our library collection and reading community.

We're very excited to be receiving another box soon—hopefully before the end of term—so keep your eyes peeled for some exciting new reads hitting the shelves!

Year 6 Transition

We had a wonderful two days welcoming the Year 6 students into Aldercar High School for their transition days. They took part in a packed timetable of different lessons and a Friday afternoon sports competition.

Whilst here they had the opportunity to work with clay in an Art lesson, and the finished products were fantastic.

It was wonderful to see some of the parents attend our transition evening, where they got to meet the tutors and find out a bit more about Aldercar High School. We are really looking forward to welcoming the students back in September to start the next chapter of their journey with us.



Finally, a big thank you to those who have completed the questionnaire that was sent out last week. The feedback was extremely positive so thank you very much for taking the time to do this. If you have a few minutes to spare to and would like to complete this, we would very much appreciate it.

Student Council

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the students from across the different year groups, for their commitment to being part of our Student Council. They have been a real pleasure to work with, and they have come up with some fantastic ideas to improve students' experiences of school.

We look forward to working with the group again in September, and we are excited to recruit some new Year 7 students to join us. A special shout out to Dylan LV who designed a QR code for all students to use to submit suggestions. A genius in the making.

BERT Award

We are extremely proud to announce that Aldercar has achieved the Bronze BERT award (Building Effective Relationships Together). As part of the BERT award process, a full audit of the school's PSHE/RSE curriculum was carried out, and all faculty areas completed a curriculum audit. It has been great to involve the students in the delivery of the curriculum, to ensure that it is engaging and informative. Jane O'Byrne from Children's Services has been in to school and done some group work with students across the year group to see how we can continually improve. We are now starting to work towards the Silver Award, with our focus being on parental engagement.

The school of Artisan Food

A group of enthusiastic Year 9 students recently had the unique opportunity to attend a four day workshop at The School of Artisan Food, where they explored the vital relationship between food and health.

Set in the heart of the beautiful Welbeck Estate in Nottinghamshire, The School of Artisan Food is renowned for its commitment to high-quality food education. During their visit, the students were introduced to a wide range of topics that connected practical cookery with broader food-related issues such as sustainability, cost, availability, and the importance of making balanced food choices.

Under the guidance of professional chefs and food educators, students rolled up their sleeves and got stuck into cooking healthy, delicious meals using seasonal, locally sourced ingredients. As they chopped, stirred, and plated up, they learned about the origins of their ingredients and discussed the impact of food production on the environment. They also explored how food choices can affect not only personal health but also the world around them.



The school of Artisan Food continued

Each student was given a package that contained herbs, spices, flour, pasta, olive oil, dried yeast, vegetable stock, tomato puree and other condiments. The majority of the students have enjoyed using the ingredients to be able to cook meals at home to showcase their skills that they have learnt.



Sessions encouraged students to think critically about the availability and affordability of healthy food, especially in the context of the rising cost of living and global supply chain challenges. They looked at how to shop smartly, reduce waste, and plan meals that are both nutritious and budget-friendly.

The visit to The School of Artisan Food proved to be an engaging and eye-opening journey into the world of responsible food choices—leaving students not just with new skills in the kitchen, but with a deeper appreciation of the impact their choices can have on their health, their community, and the planet.

Billy W was commended the best student in the group over the four weeks for working above and beyond expectations and has gained more confidence in cooking, he has the opportunity to find a family recipe that he enjoys cooking to pass over to the School of Artisan Food, so it can be included in their curriculum for other schools and published into a book.

Well done to Billy and everyone who attended the School of Artisan Food who were an absolute credit to the school and were able to showcase their skills in food. I hope you all enjoy cooking at home.

Prefects and Mentors

We are delighted to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the newly appointed prefects and mentors for this academic year.

Their selection is the result of a thoughtful and thorough process that considered their academic performance, leadership potential, positive attitude, and consistent demonstration of our school's core values.

These students have earned the respect of both staff and their peers, and we are confident they will represent the school with pride and responsibility.

As prefects, they will play a key role in supporting staff, organizing school events, and serving as ambassadors for the student body.

Our mentors, meanwhile, will take on the important task of guiding and supporting younger students—helping them to settle into school life, make friends, and reach their full potential both socially and academically.

These roles offer not only an opportunity to serve the school community but also a valuable chance for personal growth and leadership development.

We commend each of them for their dedication and look forward to seeing the positive influence they will have throughout the year.

Well done to all our new prefects and mentors—your journey as student leaders begins now!

Mr Gilhooly.

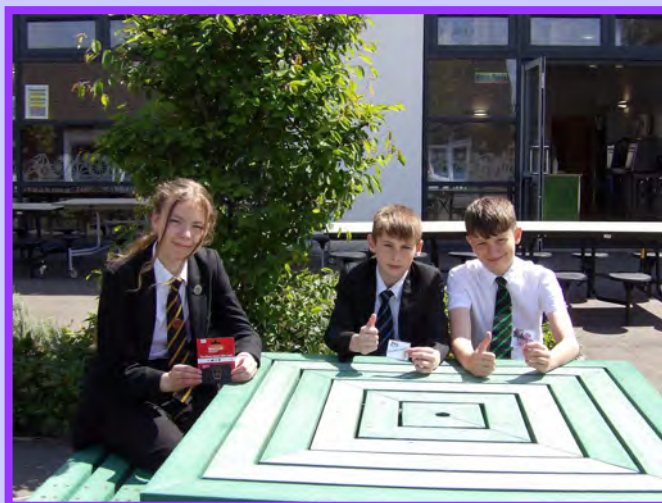


Attendance rewards

The week before May half term, for every day that they attended, students in Year 7,8 and 9 had the opportunity to be entered into the Attendance Raffle Prize draw for the chance to win either a £10 One 4 all gift card, a free cake or a lunchtime queue jump!

Here are just a few of the lucky winners but well done to all of the students who took part.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support throughout the year. We have seen significant improvements in attendance and hope this continues up to and after the summer break!



Sports news

Nine Year 8 students played in a final 9 a side round of football on a very hot 4g pitch back at the end of April.

The students gave everything although it was tough in the heat. They played two games, first game we won Heanor Gate 2-0. The second game was against a top John Flamsted team and we were defeated 4-0.

Good attitude and teamwork throughout and smiling at the end.



We now have the darts club up and running. If you are interested see the PE department.

Every Wednesday is Multi Sports club.



A huge well done to the Year 9 students who played in the finals round at Sleetmoor United in May.

Another extremely hot late afternoon but the students gave everything and played really well in the heat with great attitude and teamwork throughout and smiles all round.

A few super Year 7 students have taken part in a Quad Kids athletics team event with everyone competing in the 800m, standing long jump, 100m and vortex throw against other schools in the borough at Belper school. They all worked super hard and finished 4th out of 6 teams.



On 5th May, Erin B competed in the Derbyshire School Combined Athletics event.

Students for this competition got cherry picked by schools and athletics clubs so the standard was extremely high.

Erin finished 7th overall competing in hurdles, shot, javelin, long jump, high jump and the 800m.

Sports news

We had a fantastic day of cricket at the start of July, with two different groups of students taking part.

During the school day, five of our Year 7 & 8 students took part in cricket drills and games. The students were brilliant, well done to them!



After school, we travelled to Marehay Cricket Club with our top Year 8 & Year 9 cricketers to face Heanor Gate. The students were outstanding and secured a brilliant win: 96 runs to 90. Everyone played with great spirit and teamwork. Special mentions to Alfie, Wills, and Olivia for standout performances. Well done to all involved — they were a real credit to the school!

All students from Years 7-10 have taken part in Sports Week during the week commencing 23rd June. This culminated in a staff v Year 10 football match on the Friday afternoon where the staff team were glorious in their victory. The house champions for Sports Week were Shipley! Congratulations to all Shipley participants. Thank you to the PE Department.



Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 students participated in a week of work experience during the week commencing the 19th of May. We had some fantastic feedback from our local employers, and we know that a selection of students has now been offered part time jobs or offers of apprenticeships for next year. A big thank you to Mrs Salt and Miss Tyrrell for their hard work in organising this valuable week.

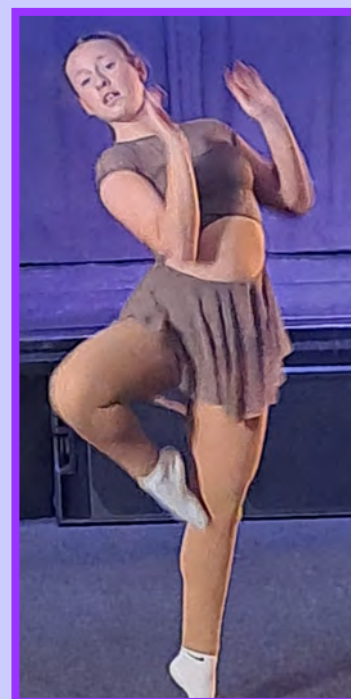


Embark Dance Festival

On Wednesday 21st May some of our students attended the Embark Dance Festival at New Horizon Church in Langley Mill. The dance festival is an opportunity for students from Embark schools to showcase their dance abilities as they perform to one other. There were dance performances of all different styles with some wonderful costumes and choreography. There were several guest professional dancers who talked about their careers, taught us some choreography and showed us their great dancing abilities when they performed: contemporary dancer Maddie Brooks-Brown, Erin Grace a world cup lyrical soloist, Sam Holden from Hamilton and Hip-Hop dancer Ellie Kinsey.

The Aldercar High School performances began with Kaidee and Emmie who brought a great energy to their modern duet and had the whole room clapping along. Mila taught the whole room a few dance steps and talked about competitions including performing in the Blackpool tower. Mila then performed two fantastic dance pieces for us a cha-cha and a rumba showing us all the great talent and ability that she has. Annie-Mae shared a moving solo contemporary dance using the floor to showcase her seamless dance moves.

When asked about their day, the girls responded with the following 'it was very fun', 'we enjoyed watching the other dancers', 'I enjoyed watching the other professionals and seeing how good they were' and 'I loved the energy'.



The Embark Italy trip

On 13th March nine Year 7 students went on the trip of a lifetime to Italy for five nights. It was an amazing experience for our eco club. We flew to Pisa and stopped by the leaning tower for lunch before driving to the hostel located in the beautiful mountains of Tuscany.



On day two we visited a local Italian school to learn about ecological footprints, we participated in a variety of creative activities to show our understanding of ecological footprints.

On day three, we went on an expert lead nature walk in the beautiful mountain forests behind the hostel. The scavenger hunt highlighted some interesting features of the environment such as boar tracks and we even found a porcupine quill! Finally, we made the most of the picturesque scenery and had lunch by the river.



On day four we travelled to a roman archaeological site where we saw original roman structures including an amphitheatre we then went to paddle in the sea and build sandcastles on the beach.



Finally on day five we journeyed home by bus, train and plane, before arriving back home to Aldercar High School.

Scarlett-Year 7

Year 10 visit to Derby University

Year 10 and 11 students had the opportunity to go for an experience day at the University of Derby. The day was designed to give students an insight into what life could be like at university. During the day our students had a lecture about why they should go to university, they had a campus tour and experienced a forensic science lesson. During the forensic science lesson they had the opportunity to use fingerprint dusting and try to work out who committed the crime using a variety of tools and techniques.

Our students had a great day out and hopefully we will have more opportunities within the future for other year groups.



Year 7 trip to Space Centre



On 25th June, forty eight of our Year 8 students went on a trip to The National Space Centre in Leicester. The students got to explore interactive galleries, including the 42m high Rocket Tower, and enjoyed an exhilarating planetarium show about what it takes to become an astronaut. Students discovered all about space exploration of the past, present and future and even got to smell what space is like! Both students and staff had a thoroughly enjoyable and excellent day out.



Cadbury World trip

The Aldercar High School Breakfast Club headed to Cadbury World in Birmingham to treat our amazing students to a day full of chocolatey fun, interactive exhibits and learning about the history of chocolate and seeing how it's made from bean to bar. We got hands on experience piping and tempering chocolate as well.

We got to jump aboard the Chocolate Quest where we got to zap all the ingredients to make chocolate. We rode the Crunchie 4D roller coaster and hit the skies in the Cadbury Cream Egg air ship.

Of course no to visit to Cadbury World is complete without tasting.

A great day was had by all and we are looking forward to our next adventure.



Trip to London

In May, a group of sixth form English students (joined by some Year 10 students) embarked on an exciting school trip to London. The day began with some free time on the iconic Oxford Street, followed by an afternoon at the theatre watching *The Great Gatsby: The Musical*. For the Sixth Form students, this was a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of the text they study as part of their A Level English course.



Chess Club

After months of high-quality chess, first in the preliminary league and then moving on to the knockout rounds, Aldercar got the final the competition deserved.

Technically sound as always, Kanan moved to an early lead, but then Kaylan 'maverick', in a dazzling Queen Knight combination, had him in a check mate position from seemingly nowhere! Tragically for Kaylan, he missed this, allowing Kanan to manage to survive till the end game where he is always so strong. Hard luck Kaylan!

So.....making Aldercar chess history, Kanan now retains the prestigious Aldercar chess trophy for a second year!!

Who will step up to take a shot next year? Who knows? But, as Kaylan found to his cost, whoever it is, if you come for the King, you had better not miss!

WELL PLAYED TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART!



Eco Club Update

This term we have been busy spending our £10,000 grant from the RHS through the Education Nature Parks Program to improve biodiversity on our school site. We have new planters and benches with lavender for bees. We have bat and bird boxes as well as hedgehog homes. We have also cleared out our existing pond to encourage frogs and other water species. Some of our planters will be used to grow food for technology lessons in the future and reduce our food miles.

We have also continued to monitor and reduce energy use around the school using Energy Sparks and Education Action Workshops. Recycle schemes are more thorough now we have food waste, plastic, paper and batteries separated.

What you can do to help:

Use refillable water bottles to reduce single-use plastics.

Switch off lights and electrical items when not in use.

Turn down heating and switch off completely in the summer months (this could save you a lot of money too)

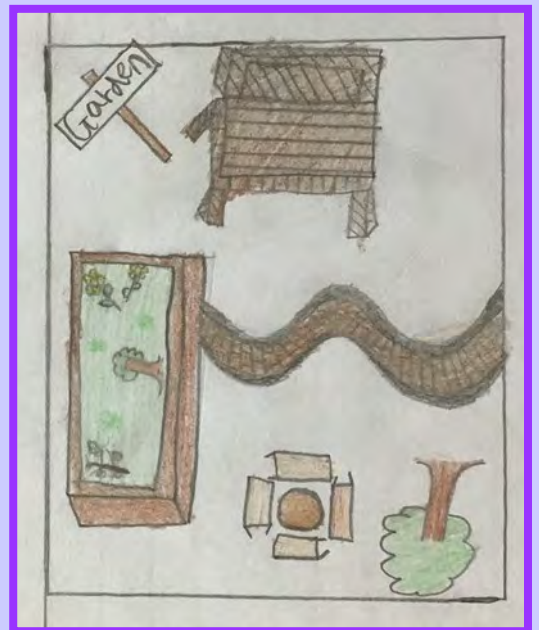
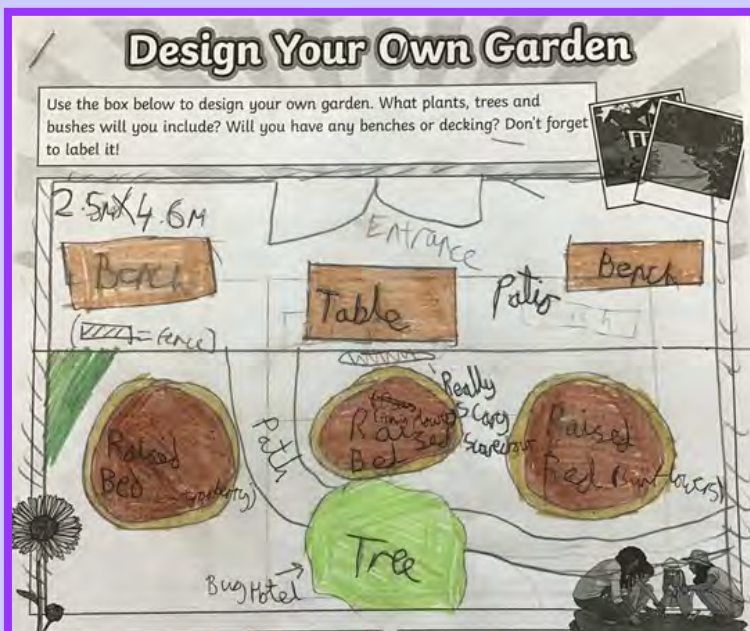
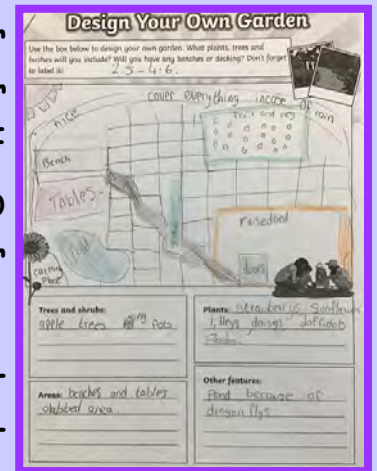
Collect rainwater in your garden to use to water plants.



Botanical base

To follow on from the RSPB project that the Year 9 students completed, we have turned our attention to the unused grassy area at the back of the Hearing Impaired Base. Students wanted to encourage wildlife and also use the area for outdoor learning.

As part of their Life Skills lessons, students set about designing the ideal garden and listing what they would like to grow. Plants such as Lavender, Lilly's, Sunflowers and Tulips were popular, fruit and vegetables were also mentioned. As a starter we began with a few strawberry plants which we grew in doors. One plant was successful and produced some tasty strawberries.



Chat GPT
images



Botanical Base continued

Once the plan had been agreed, students set about establishing their green fingers and began planting sunflowers, tomatoes and lavender.

We were lucky enough to receive 2 benches, planters plus some extra baskets and pots that staff had donated.



Next year we hope to develop the garden further by installing a path and cultivating the grass. Purchasing a greenhouse would enable us to grow plants from seeds and also protect them from the elements.

We hope to use the grown produce to make some tasty meals.
Watch this space.



Year 11 prom

As the school year draws to a close, we've reached that special moment when we say farewell to our Year 11 students. After months of dedication and determination in preparation for their GCSE exams, they returned one final time for their leavers' assembly on June 27th—an opportunity to reflect, to celebrate, and to say goodbye.

The day ended in style with the much-anticipated prom that evening, where students marked the end of an era with laughter, memories, and a touch of glamour.

To our Year 11s: we will miss you greatly. You have made your mark on our school, and we wish you all the very best for the future—wherever your journey may take you.



Tesco Stronger Starts Campaign

The Breakfast Club at Aldercar High School is now part of the Tesco stronger starts campaign and can therefore be voted for with the following stores:

2034 Keldholme Lane Express DE24 0RY

2257 Chaddesden Express DE21 6NA

2380 Alvaston Express DE24 8QN

2649 Heanor Superstore DE75 7EX

5231 Derby London Road Express DE1 2QR

5886 Derby Express DE1 2AA

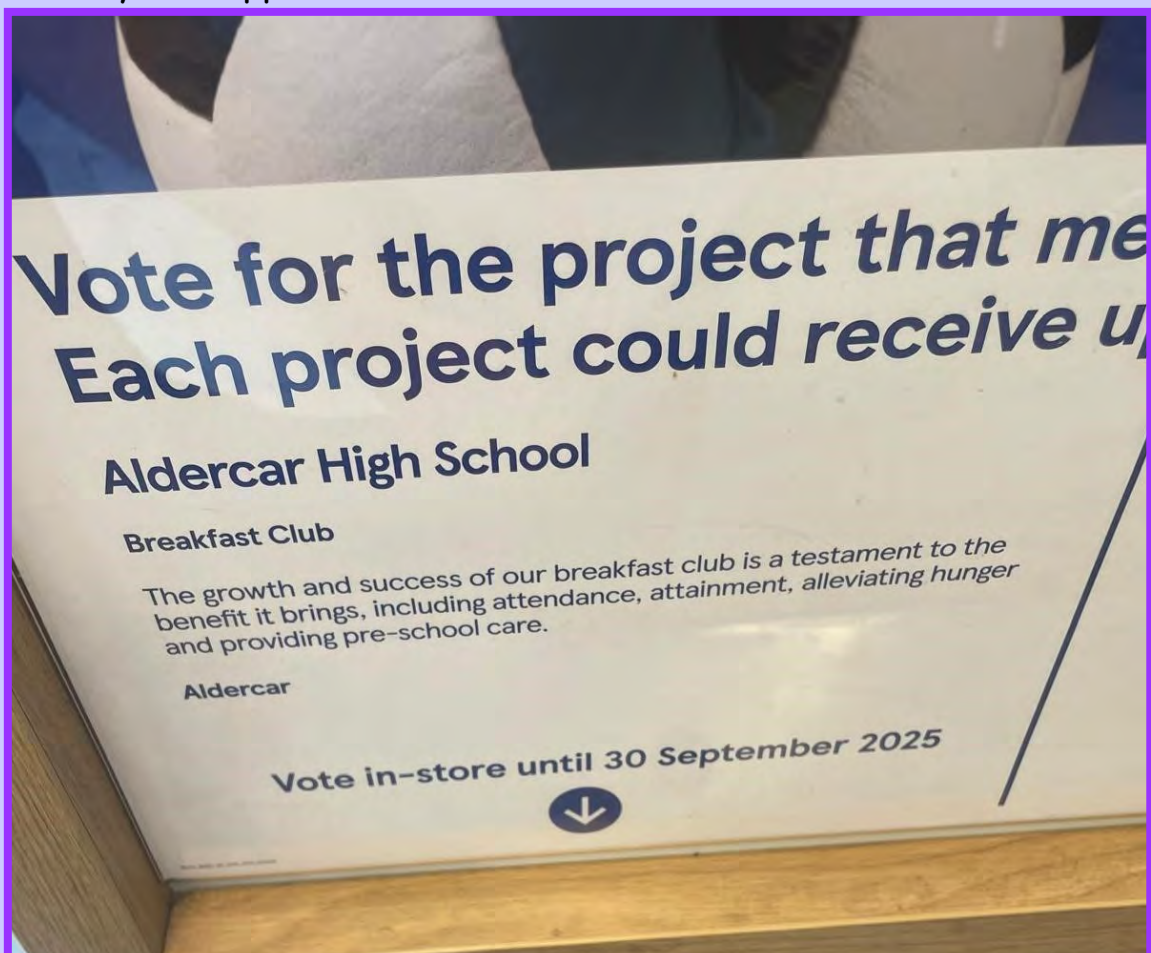
6428 Chellaston Derby Road Express DE73 5SA

We all get those blue coins if we shop at Tesco, so if you could all join us with voting that would be amazing! Please spread the word with family and friends.

The project with the highest number of votes across your region will receive £1,500 (or the amount that was requested up to this value), the second placed project £1,000 (or the amount that was requested up to this value), and the third placed project £500.

We rely solely on donations so this would be another amazing step forwards for Breakfast Club funding.

Thank you for your support



ERS trip to Cromford Mills

Students from our ERS Phoenix Centre went on a visit to Cromford Mills. This was a trip to coincide with one of our History topics. The students had great fun dressing up in costumes from the previous times, to feel how the children felt who were going out to work.



ERS Trip to Matlock Bath



The ERS students had a great day out at Matlock Bath.

ERS trip to Twycross Zoo

All the students and staff had a great end of term treat day trip to Twycross Zoo. We all had a great day in the sunshine.



**TWYXCROSS
ZOO**

Staffing updates

With regards to staffing updates, the following staff have moved on or are moving on to new employment opportunities. We would like to thank the staff for their service to the school and for the opportunities that they have provided to our students:

Mrs Jeffreys (Head of Year 9),
Miss Mansell (Learning Resource Manager)
Miss Stanley (Exams, Data and SEND administrator)
Miss Taylor (Teacher of Art)
Mr Walford (Teacher of Maths)
Mrs Walford (Teacher of Art)
Mrs Barber (Deputy SENCO)
Mr Miles (Site Manager)
Mr Tomlin (Teacher of Mathematics)
Mrs Cracknell (Teacher of Science)
Mr Brown (Site Manager)
Mrs Spencer (Learning Support Asst)

We wish them all well in their future pursuits.

We would also like to pass on our congratulations to Mrs Hall on the birth of her new baby boy, Arthur.

We would like to formally welcome the following new staff to the school:

Miss Maxwell - Teacher of Mathematics
Miss Bryan - Teacher of Art
Miss Marchant - Teacher of Science
Mrs Pick - Data and Exams Manager
Mr Dexter - Cover Manager
Miss Spence - Cover Supervisor
Mr Druce - Site Manager
Mrs Blues - Data, Exams and SEND administrator
Mrs Knowlton - Data, Exams and SEND administrator
Mr O'Neil - Learning Support Assistant
Miss Marriott - Learning Support Assistant
Miss Smith-Vernon - Learning Support Assistant
Miss Hart - Learning Support Assistant
Dr Bell- Learning Resource Centre Coordinator
Mrs Bobeszko - Specialist teaching and Learning Assistant

Diary Dates

Event	Date
Last Day of term	24th July
A-Level Results Day	14th August
GCSE Results Day	21st August
SUMMER BREAK	25th July-3rd September
Inset Days 1 and 2	4th and 5th September
Students return to school	8th September
Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition	12th - 14th September
Student photos	23rd September
Year 10 Music trip	17th October
Reading Tea/Coffee morning	24th October
Last day of half term	24th October
HALF TERM	27th-31st October
Students return to school	3rd November
Inset day 3	7th November
Post-16 Remembrance Dress to Impress	11th Novemeber
Year 10 Parents Evening	4th December
Inset Day 4	5th December
Last Day of Term	19th December
CHRISTMAS BREAK	22nd December- 2nd January

More events and trips will be added to our calendar in September, please check the school website calendar for more details.

Inset Days for 2025/2026 are as follows:

Thursday 4th September

Friday 5th September

Friday 7th November

Friday 5th December

Monday 5th January 2026

Friday 26th June 2026

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, we wish you all a very memorable summer holiday and look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 8th September 2025 at 8:25am.