



Diary Dates



Event	Date
CHRISTMAS BREAK	22nd December-2nd January
Inset Day	5th January
Students return to school	6th January
Year 11 and Year 13 Mock exams	12th—23rd January
Year 9 options/parents evening	29th January
Year 9 options deadline	11th February
Year 11 and Year 13 parents evening	12th February
Last day of half term	13th February
HALF TERM	16th-20th February
Students return to school	23rd February
Year 13 Finance evening	24th February
Iceland trip	26th February—1st March
Year 9 Geography Fieldwork week	2nd—6th March
Embark World Book Day workshops	18th March
Year 11 photographs	24th March
Year 8 parents evening	26th March
Last day of term	27th March
Last Day of Term	28th March
EASTER BREAK	1st-12th April

Embark Awards 2025

Aldercar High School nominated 5 well-deserving students for outstanding achievement at the annual Embark Awards 2025 at the New Horizon Centre in Langley Mill.

It was great to see our awards winners on stage alongside students from age 4 through to age 18 as well as sharing the stage with a number of special guests including Giant from the game show Gladiators.

Congratulations to all of our award winners.



Celebrating Success at Aldercar High School

At Aldercar High School, we believe in recognizing and rewarding positive behaviour, dedication, and respect. Our students earn House Points for their attitude to learning, attendance, and overall conduct. These points open the door to a variety of exciting rewards!

From shout-outs, sweets and chocolates, and positive postcards, to queue-jump passes and even a free lunch, there are plenty of ways for students to feel appreciated.

And that's not all—each term, the students who achieve the highest number of House Points receive a very special reward: a celebratory lunch served by Mr. Blake himself.

A huge well done to all our hardworking students who continue to demonstrate excellence every day. Keep up the fantastic effort!



Year 13 Science

On Wednesday 28th November the Year 13 Chemistry students attended a workshop run by the University of Nottingham's Chemistry department, where they had the opportunity to see and use some of the spectrometry and spectroscopy equipment in the university's laboratories.

All of the students got to produce their own infra-red (IR) spectra of aspirin or salicylic acid samples, as well as have mini lectures from a number of the Chemistry department staff on each of the key techniques of mass spectrometry, IR spectroscopy and NMR. The latter has been developed into a commonly known medical imaging technique, MRI; a process actually developed at the University of Nottingham.

The students had a great taste of what university lectures and labs were like; most surprising was the scale of the facilities, where the underground teaching laboratory can house over 80 students and has walls covered in fume cupboards! It means that when they cover the material in their course, they can now visualise the machines which are discussed, as well as get a feel for the difference between university teaching and school teaching!

Literacey walking tour

On Wednesday 16th July some of our keenest Year 10 English students were taken on a literary walking trip of Nottingham! Commencing with a guided tour of Nottingham's fantastic library, we were regaled by tales about the left lion, Peter Pan, Lawrence and Bryon to name just a few. The trip included stops at Five leaves and Waterstones bookshops - a real treat for these book lovers - before returning by train to Langley Mill. A great bookish day out!



Technology

Our Year 7 students have truly impressed us in Technology this term! They've created some amazing pieces of work, including fabulous Block Bots that showcase their creativity and technical skills. A huge well done to all our budding engineers - your hard work and imagination really shine through!



Poetry Competition winners

Aldercar High School Library held a Remember, Remember poetry competition. Students were tasked with writing a short poem about a memory. There were some fantastic entries and judging was difficult but our winner was Freya in Year 10 with 'That Word':

They think I'm indestructible,
Unbreakable, invincible.
But everyone has their limit.

A bridge —
Tall and cracked and broken,
Reflecting the state I'm in.

Or maybe a window —
Closer and creaking and cracked open,
Breeze smacking me in the face.

The floorboards know the weight of me,
I'm burdening them and breaking me.
The railings knew I was fragile,
Even before that word was thrown at me.
"Jump" she said, but I ran.



Some other great entries from our students;

'I remember when' by Jasmine Year 10

I remember when the skies were black and
All the curtains closed. Everyone praying
For the war to be disposed. Sons and husbands
Packing the stuff to fight for our country our
Land women getting ready to nurse the poor injured
Soldiers back to health we mourn and
Care for all our losses to all that fought
Side by side to protect us from the
Tragedy that had come.

Poetry Competition Winners

'I remember' by Alexis Year 7

I remember the time we were alive
The laughter all around
I will miss them
The people in the past
Always come back

'Remembrance Day from Another Perspective' by Millie Year 7

Remembering the story my Great-uncle told me
Even though he said he didn't like remembering everything
My head was in shambles trying to picture him younger
Even if he didn't want to say it all, he did.
Mud and dirt covered everywhere
Boiling and heated in his over-sized uniform
Reminiscing all the soldiers lost, gone but never forgotten.
A lot of time gone, but still on our hearts
November the time to remember
Celebrating with poppies, red, purple, white, humans, animals and peace
Every day they fought the war until the community brought peace
Days after days past
Anyone could go
Yet he never did.



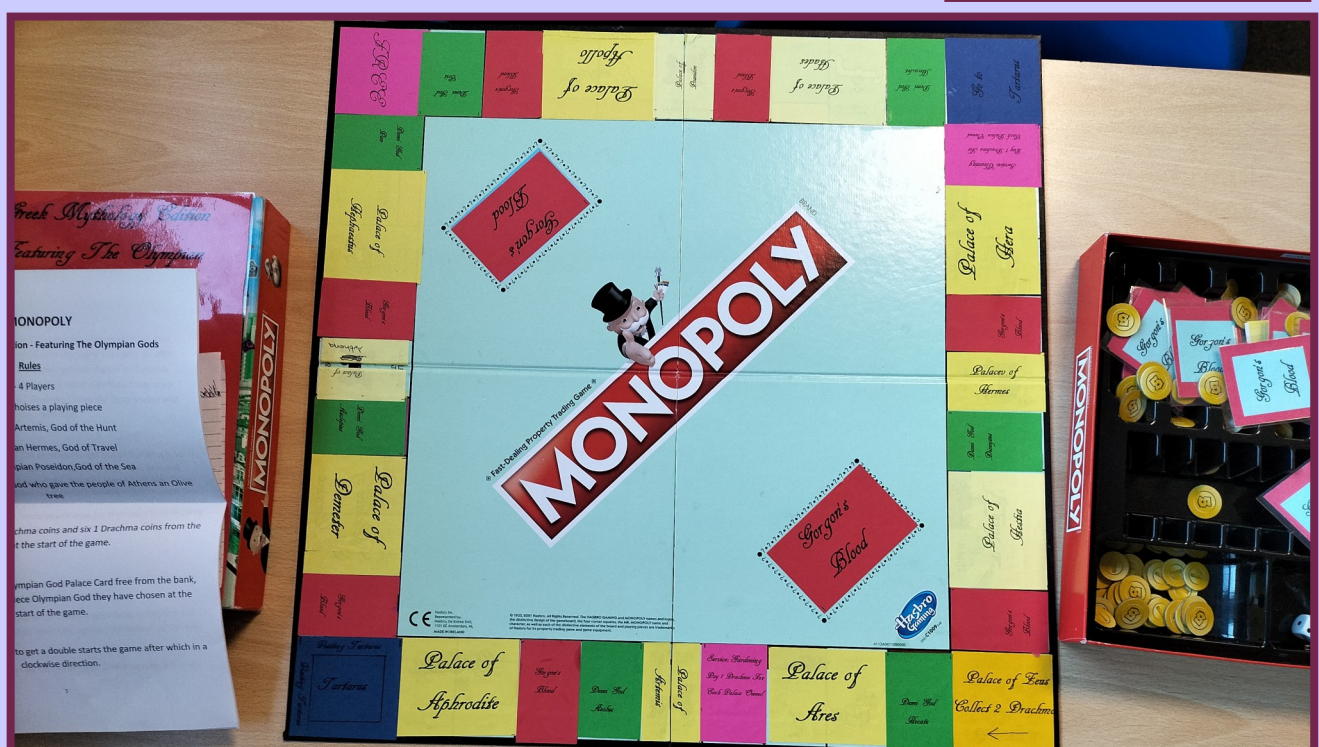
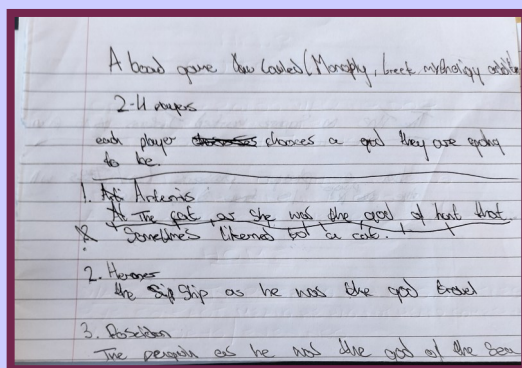
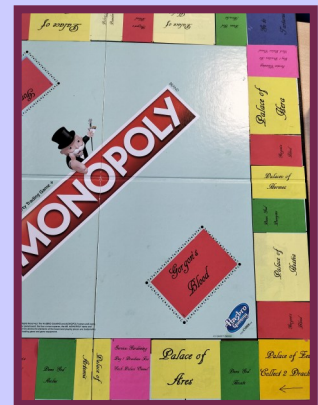
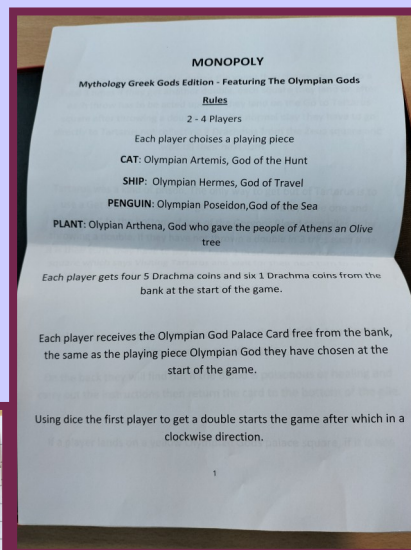
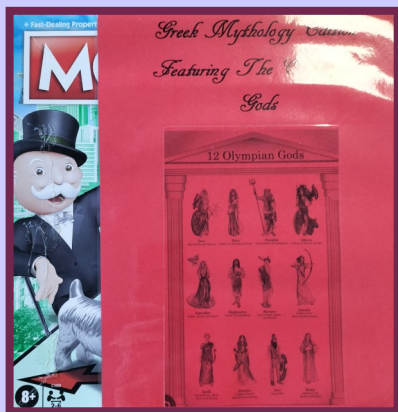
Also, on the subject of Remembrance, were our Remembrance day celebrations. Some of our students who are involved in local services wore their uniforms as a tribute to those currently serve or have previously served.



Curriculum Captures - English

The English department have been receiving lots of fantastic homework from Year 7 students this term. Challenged to complete a range of tasks on their current scheme of work on Greek Mythology, (such as, for example, make their own Greek myth themed board game!), many pupils (and parents!) have done some great work.

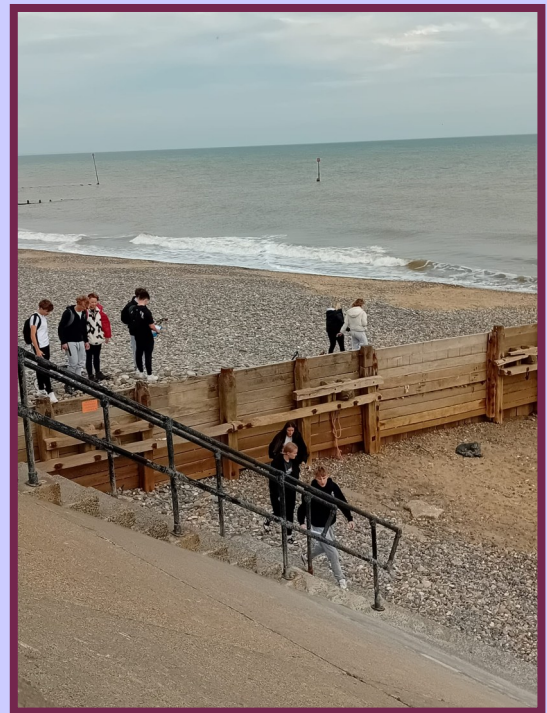
Perhaps one of the best examples is this wonderful effort from Lucus - his own version of Monopoly!



Year 11 Geography fieldtrip

Year 11 recently enjoyed their GCSE Geography fieldwork trip to Flamborough Head and Hornsea as part of the Paper 3 element of their course. At Flamborough Head, students had the opportunity to see first-hand the geology and geomorphology of the coastline, bringing their classroom learning about coastal processes to life. They then travelled to Hornsea, where they carried out fieldwork to investigate whether the groyne coastal management strategy is working effectively.

The weather was beautiful throughout the day, and as an added highlight, students were lucky enough to spot seals and even dolphins! It was an absolute pleasure to spend the day with Year 11, and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and maturity they showed during the trip — not to mention their lovely singing on the way home!



Sport news

Back in September we had a Cross Country House competition for our Year 7 students. Shipley came first, Howitt 2nd, Ormonde 3rd and Gregg a very close 4th.

Some amazing times were set by students, the top eight students went on to compete for Aldercar High School against other schools at John Flamsteed School. They all ran exceptionally well, with some finishing in the top ten, potentially qualifying for the county championship, what an amazing achievement!



Year 8 boys travelled to Sleetmoor United to compete in two games of football. In their first match against Ripley Academy, the team showed fantastic determination and discipline, holding their opponents to a hard-fought 0-0 draw.

Their second game was against Heanor Gate School, where despite a spirited performance and moments of excellent teamwork, the boys were defeated 4-1. Throughout both matches, the team demonstrated impressive dedication, resilience, and a strong sense of teamwork.

We look forward to Round 2 after Christmas, where the boys will continue to build on their experience and showcase their growing skills.



On October 7th, a group of our students demonstrated outstanding initiative and leadership by volunteering at the Amber Valley Sports Partnership event held at Heanor Leisure Centre. The event saw local primary school children competing in an exciting indoor Sportshall Athletics event, and our students played a key role in making it a success.

They managed and officiated various activities throughout the evening, ensuring everything ran smoothly and fairly. Their professionalism and enthusiasm did not go unnoticed—Liam Start from Amber Valley Sport shared very positive feedback, praising their efforts and commitment.

A huge thank you to these students for representing our school so brilliantly and supporting the local community.



Sports News

A group of year 7 and Year 8 students attended a SEND athletics event. The students competed against other schools in long jump, speed jump, throwing and races. All the students did a brilliant job.



A mix of Year 8 and Year 9 girls attended a football event at the start of November. The girls played very well and were unlucky in the first game which might have put us in a shot of being 2nd potentially winning it. In the end we finished 3rd out of the 4 teams present.

Year 7 girls went to play a round of Futsal, they absolutely loved it! They gave 100% effort in every game and showed great teamwork and spirit throughout the tournament.

Although we didn't come away with a win, the girls had a fantastic experience and represented Aldercar High School brilliantly.

5 students from Year 10 and Year 11 joined forces and Played Futsal back in November, they played a great game and showed great team spirit.



Year 9 students also played some rounds of Futsall with other local schools, showed great commitment and managed to beat one of the best teams in the county, tiredness set in towards the end but they pushed through and managed to get a last minute goal which pushed us into 2nd place overall.

On 8th December seven students represented Aldercar High School at a swim gala hosted by Belper High School. It was an exciting and challenging morning, and every student gave their absolute best in the pool.

A special congratulations goes to Josh, who achieved an incredible first place in one of his races! What a fantastic accomplishment and a testament to his hard work and determination.

Although the event was exhausting, the energy and effort from all participants made it truly worthwhile. We are so proud of each swimmer for their commitment and sportsmanship. Well done, team!



Eco Club news

In October, the ECO club planted lots of bulbs that will hopefully flower ready for the Spring. These will encourage insects and support local wildlife food chains on the school site. The bulbs were purchased through our Nature Parks Grant which has been used to clean out our small pond, add flower planters and wildflowers across the school site as well as bird and bat boxes and hedgehog shelters.



Battle of Hastings

On Wednesday 4th December, just a few weeks after the 959th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, Year 7 students undertook the annual recreation of The Battle of Hastings. The students did an amazing job making all their shields and swords. They showed their knowledge of the battle by recreating the most crucial moments. Spoiler alert: Duke William carried out his clever fake retreats, his archers caused chaos and ultimately King Harold was hit in the eye and died bravely in battle.



SEN sports Festival

On 12th December, Miss Tyrrell accompanied a group of students to the SEN Sports Festival, hosted by the Amber Valley School Sports Partnership. Our students enthusiastically took part in a variety of sports and games, and they absolutely loved every moment—they didn't want to leave!

The atmosphere was filled with laughter and joy as they played, joked, and enjoyed the activities together. To make the afternoon even more special, we sang and signed Christmas songs, creating a truly festive and heartwarming experience. What a wonderful day for everyone involved!



Rewards trip to Hickory's Smokehouse

Hickory's Smokehouse in Nuthall recently hosted two exclusive breakfast events to reward our students for their exceptional behaviour at school. The initiative, kindly offered by Hickory's Smokehouse, delighted students in October and November with a unique blend of education, fun, and recognition.

The restaurant opened its doors early exclusively for the students, providing them with a private and welcoming environment before its usual noon opening. The students had the rare opportunity to meet the pit master, gaining fascinating insights into the art of smoking meats and the workings of a professional kitchen.

The morning was filled with exciting activities — from enjoying popcorn and juice to creative colouring sheets and a special cinema screening of KPop Demon Hunters in the restaurant's private cinema room. A highlight was when each student decorated their own pancake with an array of sweet treats, adding a delicious and creative touch to the experience.

Outdoor playtime followed, where students enjoyed the climbing frames and slides. The event culminated with each student receiving a certificate of achievement and a goodie bag containing a Hickory's flag, a voucher for a free ice cream, and a personalised letter to their parents, praising their outstanding behaviour.



Nottingham Forest Football Club Academy

Year 9 student, Pearce, attends the Nottingham Forest football club academy every Tuesday and is coming to the end of a 2 year contract, where he will be competing against the best young talents in the country for another 2 year contract.

Pearce not only practices but also studies Maths, Science and English for 3 hours each day with the staff giving some great feedback about how hard he is working both academically and professionally.

He has been at Nottingham Forest Academy for 3 years having caught the attention of scouts whilst playing for Derby County Football Club Academy.

Good luck Pearce for your upcoming trials, we are all immensely proud of you.



Silver Duke of Edinburgh awards

Congratulations to the Year 11 students who completed their Silver expedition at the end of September. Well done for surviving the torrential rain on the Saturday.

As part of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme students at our school have volunteered over 500 hours of their time to support the local community.

Thank you to all of the current Year 9 and Year 10 students for signing up for the scheme this year, we now have over 80 students across the 2 year groups taking part in the scheme!



Post-16 news

Our Post-16 students demonstrated excellent professionalism on Remembrance Day, wearing their best clothes for 'Dress to Impress' - a wonderful way to mark this important occasion with the respect it deserves.

Skills Development Workshop

We were pleased to welcome Dancop to school for an invaluable workshop focused on three key areas:

- **Resilience** - building the mental strength needed to navigate challenges
- **Revision and Exam Preparation** - developing effective study strategies and exam techniques
- **Communication Skills** - enhancing the interpersonal skills essential for future success

These skills are crucial as students prepare for their final examinations and transition to the next stage of their education or careers.

UCAS Applications - Important Deadline

UCAS applications are now being completed. **The deadline for submission to Mrs Brighton is Thursday 18th December** to allow the school sufficient time to provide personal references. Please ensure you meet this deadline to avoid any delays in your application process. It's great to see that offers are coming through already for applications that have already been submitted.

Business Studies Enrichment

Our Business students attended a Tutor2u revision workshop in Birmingham on 25th November. The feedback has been extremely positive, with students finding the day highly beneficial for consolidating their knowledge and exam preparation. This type of subject-specific support is invaluable in helping students achieve their full potential.

Looking Ahead - Key Dates

Please note the following important dates:

- **5th January 2026** - INSET Day (school closed to students)
- **Mock examinations commence 12th January 2026**
- **Health And Social exam and Art exam Friday 9th January 2026**
- **Sport exam is on 7th January 2026**

Use the Christmas break to rest, recharge, and prepare for the mock examination period ahead.

Recognition and Thanks

Finally, a big thank you to all students who have maintained excellent attendance this term and demonstrated great resilience throughout what has been a challenging period. Your commitment and determination have been outstanding. Take the opportunity over the Christmas break to rest and refresh yourselves in preparation for the crucial lead-up to your final examinations in 2026.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exam Timetable

Date	Year 11 am	Year 11 pm	Year 13 am	Year 13 pm
07/01/26	-	-	Sport Live Exam	-
09/01/26	-	-	Art Live Exam	-
12/01/26	Physics	Mathematics	Physics & Psychology	-
13/01/26	English Literature	Spanish Speaking	Biology	-
14/01/26	Spanish Speaking	Spanish Speaking	Geography	-
15/01/26	Biology	Spanish Writing	Biology	-
16/01/26	English Literature	Mathematics	Physics & Psychology	-
19/01/26	Geography & History	Business	-	Business
20/01/26	Chemistry	Mathematics	Chemistry	-
21/01/26	Spanish Reading and Listening	Business	Geography	Business
22/01/26	Geography & History	Statistics	Chemistry	Business
23/01/26	History	Construction (online)	-	-

Morning exam start at 9:15am. Afternoon exams start at 1:15pm.

Students should arrive to the Sports Hall at least 15 minutes before start time.