



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am delighted to write to you today with some very exciting news for Aldercar High School. On behalf of EMBARK Federation Trust, I am pleased to confirm the appointment of **Mr Phil Smith** as the new Headteacher of Aldercar High School, with effect from the start of the summer term, after Easter.

Mr Smith is an experienced and accomplished Headteacher who has led schools in Derby City with great success, securing strong outcomes for young people and building thriving, inclusive school communities. We are confident that he brings exactly the right qualities, values and experience to lead Aldercar High School through its next chapter.

Mr Smith would like to share the following message with you directly:

*"I am truly looking forward to joining the Aldercar High School community after Easter. I recognise that the past year has brought change and uncertainty, and I want to begin by thanking staff, students and families for their resilience and commitment during that time.*

*Throughout my career, I have been passionate about building inclusive schools where every young person feels a strong sense of belonging and is supported to achieve their very best. I believe that thriving cultures, clarity and strong relationships are the foundations of a successful school, and I am excited to work in partnership with staff, students, families and the wider community as we move into our next exciting chapter together.*

*I look forward to listening, learning and building on the many strengths already present within the school. Together, we will ensure that the school is a place of high expectations, inclusivity and pride, where every member of the community can flourish."*

We are very much looking forward to introducing Mr Smith to the whole school community in due course, and he will be in touch directly with families and students in the coming weeks. Further information about arrangements for the start of term will follow shortly.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, students and families for your continued support and commitment to Aldercar High School. The Trust remains absolutely committed to the school's success and to ensuring that every young person receives an excellent education in a safe, supportive and ambitious environment.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

**Craig Yates**

Secondary Education Lead EMBARK Federation Trust

