



24th April 2026

Good afternoon members of the Aldercar High School community,

I want to start off our first weekly newsletter by saying a huge thank you to the whole community. In my first two weeks I have been blown away by everyone's kindness and warm welcome. This has left me already feeling like I am at home! Our community is amazing and am truly excited to lead Aldercar High School to an abundance of future successes.

I am also delighted that in the two weeks after Easter we have seen the highest ever number of reward points given to our young people. Well done everyone and keep it up.

Ofsted Visit - Receiving the Ofsted call after just 5 days as Headteacher was a surprise to say the least. However, we are super proud that Ofsted recognised and celebrated some of the amazing things that are embedded at our school. We all appreciate that our school community has been through some challenging times, but the inspection team have recognised that there has been rapid improvement and that the school does the right things for our young people. They also recognised that we are on journey and we are not quite there yet. I want to thank all of the community for the positive feedback that was provided to the inspection team and when the report is finalised we will share it with pride.

Our Chair of Governors, Claire Keyte and all of the Embark team were at the final feedback session and they want to thank the staff and students for their ongoing hard work and genuine care.

Year 9 Trip to Spain

This week some of our Year 9 students have been having an amazing time in Madrid as part of the Turing Project with Mrs Jepson and Mrs Prescott. They have been immersed into fantastic Spanish experiences such as having Tapas in a Spanish Restaurant and attending a Spanish School where they were able to practice their speaking and listening skills. They have even been on a tour of the Bernabeu Stadium – the home of Real Madrid Football Club.





Year 7 Football success

We came so close! This week held the top 4 schools in the league table (we placed 4th) playing a semi-final then onto the final or 3rd /4th play off. Semi-final we beat David Neiper 2-0, a worldie free kick from George J sealed the deal to book a place in the final.

In the final we played John Flamsteed and we probably should have wrapped the game up at half time if it wasn't for some top goalkeeping we just couldn't find the back of the net. The lads kept pushing and we came undone from a quick Flammy break with the game finishing 1-0.

2nd place overall out the 7 schools in the borough 🏆

Well done to Owen C, George J, Charlie W, Alan D, Harry P, Lucus I, Malakai H, Mikey M, Ronnie B, Harley P.

Year 9 Options - Taster Sessions

Year 9 taster sessions ran on Monday 20 April. Students were highly engaged throughout, with one student commenting, "That was great as I now know exactly what I want to choose." We are also pleased to confirm that Drama has been added to the KS4 offer for Year 10 next year. Further details of how students will choose their options will be communicated shortly.

Year 10 Mock Exams

An incredible start has been made by Year 10 in their exams this week. Their conduct throughout the exams has been fantastic, and if this continues, a major celebration will take place next week. A key date for the diary is Thursday 11th June 2026, when Year 10 will receive their mock exam results at their parents evening.

Year 11 Exams

We have had the real Art exam this week, and a huge well done to the students—some of the artwork has been of an amazing quality. The Photography exam takes place next Thursday and Friday, so a massive good luck to all students involved.

Have a great weekend and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Kind Regards

Phil Smith

Proud Headteacher Aldercar High School

'Every child known, every lesson counts, every future unlocked'

Chair of the Inclusion Strategy Group