



Weekly Newsletter 26th June 2026

Dear members of the Aldercar High School Community,

We want to start off by thanking everyone for their support this week. The weather has provided significantly challenges but we have worked well together.

Uniform Reminders - Next week the weather returns to expected temperatures so we will be returning to normal timetable. In addition, students will need to return to wearing our summer uniform. This consists of black footwear, black trousers/skirt. There is no requirement for students to wear ties, jumpers or blazers.

In addition, we ask for parental support regarding false nails. Can you please ensure students are not wearing false nails, and their own nails are of an appropriate length. This is due to the health and safety of all students.

Please enjoy our latest newsletter.

Key Stage 3 End of Year Exams

Well done to our KS3 students for sitting their end of year exams over last week and this week. We look forward to seeing the results, and sharing reports with students and families before we break up for the summer holidays.

Year 10 Re-Teach

Year 10 are having their re-teach fortnight, focusing on those easier misconceptions and gaps from the recent mocks. Students will then be assessed and celebrations shared before the summer holidays, so students finish Year 10 feeling confident leading into Year 11.

Year 11 Leavers Assembly

Year 11 are invited back into school on Friday 3rd July, arriving from 9.30am. This is a great opportunity to come together and celebrate the last 5 years, followed by the traditional shirt signing. We will have finished by 11.10am.

Any students wishing to donate any unwanted uniform or PE kit would be greatly appreciated.

Year 11 Prom

We are very excited to be celebrating the 2026 Year 11 Prom at Horsley Lodge on Friday 3rd July.

It is advised that students aim to arrive at Horsley Lodge from around 7.00pm and no later than 7.30pm students may arrive earlier if you wish to have photographs taken.

The prom will start at 7.30pm and students will be greeted with a glass of non-alcoholic fruit punch at the entrance then they will go inside to be seated where they will have their meal and then dance the night away..... we are looking forward to seeing them there.

Please do not forget to bring some money for drinks and photos.

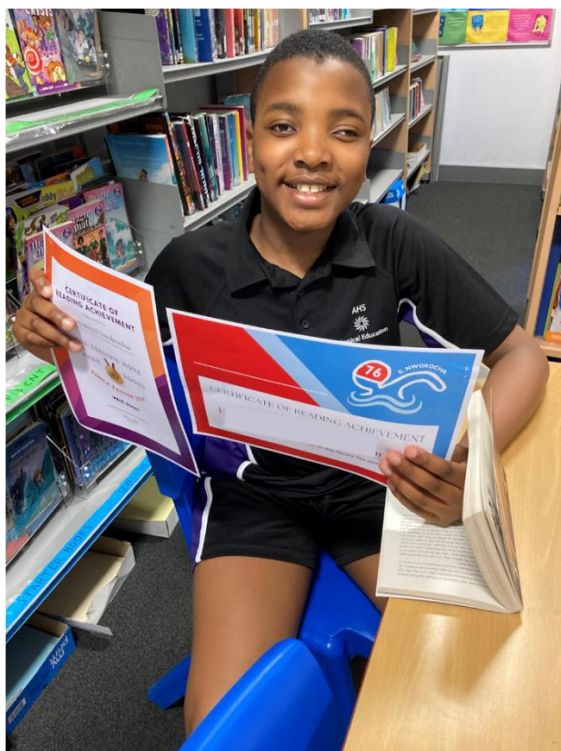
Parents are welcome to come and see their son/daughter arrive at the Prom.



Curriculum Capture: Library

This week, certificates and prizes are going out to reward eager readers. There are prizes for every student who has taken out ten or more books from the library this year, and extra rewards for those who have read five or more books since Easter!

Alexis W has read an amazing 14 books since Easter, and Emmanuel N is our top reader, having devoured 76 books this year! Well done to everyone getting their certificates and prizes this week.



Day-to-day, it is always a pleasure to host students in the library at break and lunchtimes. Chess is currently the most popular game, overtaking Uno, and the students' bright football shirt designs are proudly on display near the sports books. Wordle continues to challenge students using the computers, and the good behaviour of students will set a brilliant example for the new Year 7s next year.

Prefect Applications

It has been a busy few weeks with our Year 10 students preparing their applications for a leadership role as a Prefect. A big well done to those who have submitted well written applications outlining the skills that they have to fulfil an important and rewarding role in school.

There will be an assembly for all of those who applied on Monday during registration to announce the roles of Head and deputy prefects alongside the team who will work with them on important upcoming events. The first one will be the transition days next week where they will support the Year 6 children who are joining us in September.



Sports Week

Due to the heatwave our revised sports day timetable is shown in the table below.

YEAR GROUP	DATE
10	MONDAY 29TH JUNE
7	WEDNESDAY 1ST JULY
8	WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY
9	THURSDAY 9TH JULY

- On their year group day, we would like students to come in House colours that are **suitable sports clothing**. If this isn't possible, students are to wear their normal AHS PE kit.
- If unsuitable kit is being worn, students will be told to wear spare kit.
- Students are to bring a drinks bottle – the entire year group will be in the same location for their sports day, please make sure they have their name on their bottle.
- All belongings will be kept and locked in the changing area, drinks bottles and inhalers will need to be taken out and given to the teacher running the competition.
- Students who select the football option will need their 3G shoes.
- An Ice Cream van will be available on Wednesday 1st July during Period 5 and after school, change or payment card will be required if students wish to purchase an ice cream.

Museum Of Making Trip

Last week 12 of our students took part in a project run by the Museum of Making in collaboration with Vaillant.

The week was designed to inspire young people to consider careers in engineering and to raise their aspirations. Only five other groups have previously been given this opportunity, making it a truly unique and memorable experience.

Students spent four days at the Museum of Making, where they were trained to use a range of machines and worked on a project throughout the week. From start to finish, the experience was

incredible. They began by creating their own name badges, toured the Vaillant factory, and learned about a variety of career pathways before designing and building their own screwdriver from scratch.

Throughout the week, the students conducted themselves exceptionally well, and the team had nothing but positive feedback about their attitude and engagement.

They also had the opportunity to meet a range of professionals, including directors from both Vaillant and the Museum of Making, who presented them with certificates and invited them to showcase everything they had learned during the week.

The team we worked with were fantastic and supported us from the moment we arrived until we left.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the staff who supported the trip and helped make it such a success.

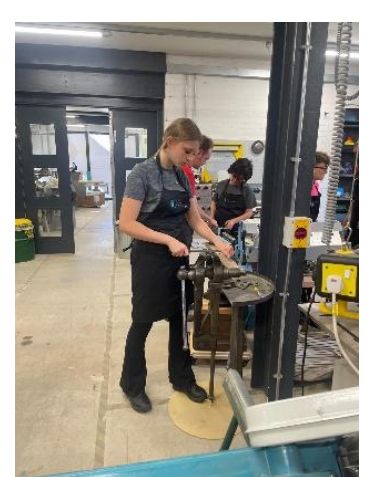
Student Feedback:

'I thought it was an amazing experience and a great opportunity to learn new skills and use lots of machinery' - Ellis S

'I really enjoyed making stuff and found it fun and learned about new things'- Emelia G

'I loved it, the project was well thought through and the people there were so nice, open to helping and questions. The factory was also very interesting. The overall experience was amazing and very enjoyable. I am grateful I had the opportunity as it gave me a good insight to future jobs'- Karris H.

'It was really great and I enjoyed everything, but I specifically enjoyed the shank, it was a really good opportunity'- Roman T.



Mr Prest Visits Japan Part 2

Friday

On Friday, we returned to school to spend the day experiencing lessons firsthand. We had the freedom to explore different classrooms, although in the morning we observed lessons without a translator—so Google Translate quickly became essential!

Dr Woodford and I joined a form group. After registration, one student addressed the class, reminding everyone to be ready to learn and make the most of the day. We were then invited to the front, where students asked us questions—in English! They were curious to learn about our favourite animal, sport, and even anime character.

The class then visited the library to choose new reading books before moving on to a maths lesson focused on dividing decimals. It was an excellent lesson and gave me lots to reflect on in terms of improving my own teaching. What really stood out was how respectfully students listened to each other and considered different ideas.

Throughout the day, we observed several more lessons where students showed impressive focus and collaboration. During break time, many students came to chat with us—particularly about football and the World Cup!

At lunchtime, we experienced a unique aspect of Japanese school life. Students eat together in their classrooms and serve one another. While we ate, they tried to teach me some Japanese—though it turned out they were getting me to say a girl's first name followed by a boy's surname to embarrass someone! We all had a good laugh.

After lunch, everyone helped clean the classroom, including wiping desks and sweeping the floor—something that really highlights the sense of responsibility and teamwork in Japanese schools.

The final lesson of the day was a “lesson study” session. One class was taught in the school hall while over 70 teachers, professors, and visitors (including us) observed. Afterwards, the teacher received detailed feedback to help improve their practice. It was fascinating to see professional development in action on such a large scale.

That evening, we were honoured to attend a meal with the teachers—and even had the chance to wear traditional kimonos!



Saturday

On Saturday, we attended a district lesson study event. Selected students came into school (which is considered a great honour), and teachers from across the region gathered to observe lessons.

In the maths lessons I watched, over 100 observers were present. Some students even had iPads filming their work, which was displayed on large screens. It was an incredible example of how seriously teaching and learning are taken. On the way back to Tokyo, we stopped at a peach farm, where we picked our own fruit and enjoyed tasting as many peaches as we liked!

Sunday & Monday

With no scheduled sessions, I explored different parts of Japan, visited some amazing sites, and enjoyed plenty of delicious local food.



Bamboo Forest

Tuesday & Wednesday

On Tuesday, we returned to the university to reflect on everything we had experienced. It was particularly interesting hearing perspectives from teachers visiting from the United States.

On Wednesday, we visited another school in Tokyo. After a welcome from the headteacher, we observed a maths lesson on percentage change. It was engaging and thought-provoking, and once again demonstrated the high level of student participation.

That evening, we shared a meal with teachers from the school and were paired up to have conversations. I was matched with a football fan who supports Juventus—I even managed to share a few stories about Notts County!

Thursday – Reflection and Looking Ahead

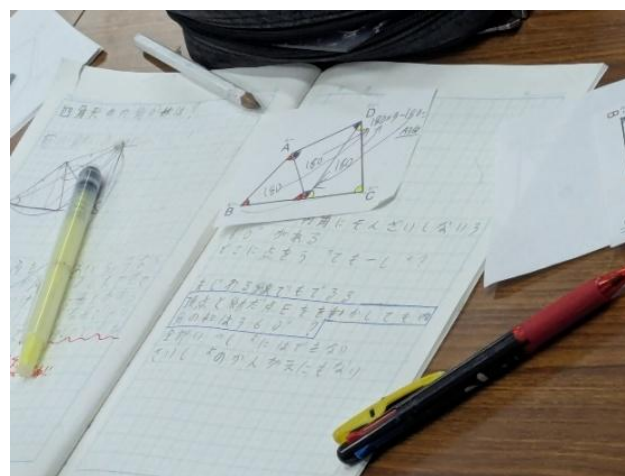
Our final day was spent reflecting and planning how to bring these ideas back into our own classrooms. The experience has had a huge impact on my teaching, and I'm excited to try new techniques. Dr Woodford and I are also planning to introduce elements of Japanese "lesson study" in the UK.

Final Thoughts

This has been an unforgettable experience, and I have learnt a tremendous amount. I would like to thank the leadership team at Aldercar High School for supporting my visit, Dr Woodford for the opportunity, and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation for funding the trip.



The sign at the bamboo forest!



Public health nurse contact details

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For parents/carers of 5-19 year olds in Derbyshire text us on 07312 263744

Available Monday to Friday 9am-4:30pm (except bank holidays)

We can also support young people aged 11-19 with all of the above as well as sexual health, drugs and alcohol support.



Young people aged 11-19 years in Derbyshire can text us on 07507 330025

Available Monday to Friday 9am-4:30pm (except bank holidays)



derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk



DerbysFamilyHealth

Diary Dates

Monday 29th June – Year 10 Sports day

Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd July – Year 6 Transition days in school

Thursday 2nd July – Year 6 Transition evening 6-7pm

Wednesday 1st July – Year 7 Sports day

Friday 3rd July – Year 11 Prom

Wednesday 8th July – Year 8 Sports day

Thursday 9th July – Year 9 Sports day

Thursday 9th July - Careers Fayre

Monday 13th July - Howitt & Shipley Celebration Evening

Thursday 16th July- Ormonde and Gregg Celebration Evening

Friday 17th July – Rewards trip to Alton Towers

Thursday 23rd July - Break up day

Kind Regards

Phil Smith

Proud Headteacher Aldercar High School

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

Chair of the Inclusion Strategy Group

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