



Weekly Newsletter 10th July 2026

Dear members of the Aldercar High School community,

We hope that you are all well and enjoying the summer weather front that is currently with us. We have had another productive week where our young people have demonstrated our values of Ready, Respectful and Responsible in abundance. Well done to everyone, we are super proud of you.

One of my highlights was some incredible feedback members of the public provided about some of our young people. This included wonderful feedback about our DofE students stating 'congratulations to the staff and pupils on their appearance, attitude involvement/interaction with the public and their smiles. Well done. A credit to your teaching/staff 100 out of 10 to the entire group. An absolute pleasure and tribute to your academy.'

We hope that you enjoy our newsletter

Student email changes

We are needing to alter the end of the students' email addresses as of Monday 20th July. Student email address will now end with @students.aldercarhighschool.co.uk

We will be supporting students with this transition in the final week of term.

Curriculum Capture: PHSE: Knife Crime assembly

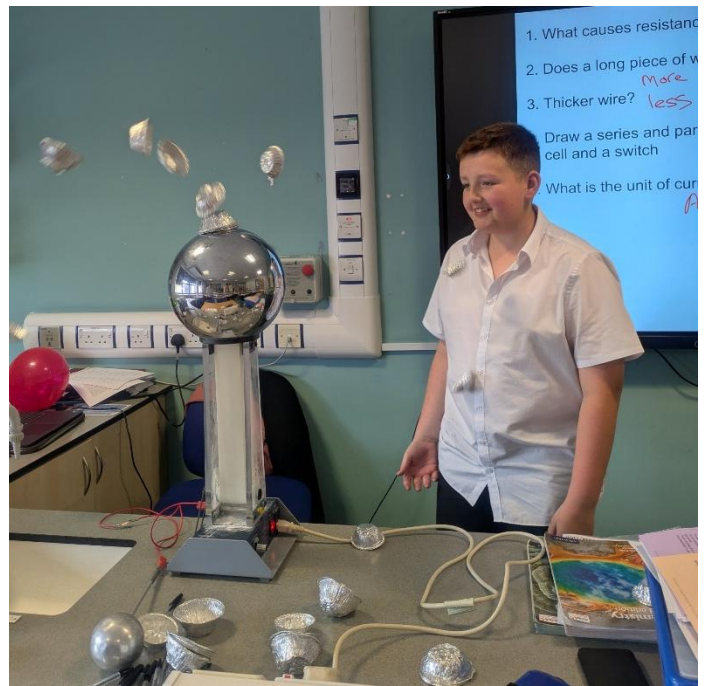
On Friday we had an assembly for Year 9 and 10 students. It was delivered by Martin who lost his son 3 years ago to a fatal stabbing.

Martin delivered an emotional, hard-hitting assembly where he talked about the reality of carrying knives and being victim to your own weapon. He also talked about the absolute devastation it caused his family alongside signposting the students where to make an anonymous call to report someone carrying a weapon. The students were exceptional and very compassionate. We would also like to say a huge thank you to everybody who donated to Charlie's Promise, as this will help get Martin into more schools to educate students.



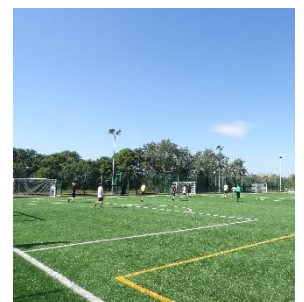
Curriculum Capture: Physics

Students in Year 8 have been looking at static electricity in their science lessons this week.



Sports Day 2026

Finishing off the Sports Days 2026 were Year 8 and 9, they were amazing. We would like to say thank you to everyone involved. It has been a great Year, albeit very hot, and the students have done all done well.





See the table below for the final results.



CURRENT SPORTS DAY STANDINGS



YEAR 10 SPORTS DAY

GREGG = 15 POINTS / HOWITT = 14 POINTS / ORMONDE = 12 POINTS / SHIPLEY = 8 POINTS

6TH FORM LEARNING SUPPORT SPORTS DAY

GREGG = 5 POINT / HOWITT = 7 POINTS / ORMONDE = 10 POINTS / SHIPLEY = 8 POINTS

YEAR 7 SPORTS DAY

GREGG = 17 / HOWITT = 16 / ORMONDE = 12 / SHIPLEY = 15

YEAR 8 SPORTS DAY (WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY)

GREGG = 14 / HOWITT = 14 / ORMONDE = 16 / SHIPLEY = 5

YEAR 9 SPORTS DAY (THURSDAY 9TH JULY)

GREGG = 13 / HOWITT = 8 / ORMONDE = 13 / SHIPLEY = 16



SPORTS DAY RESULTS



1ST PLACE AND HOUSE CHAMPIONS..... GREGG!!!!!!!!!!

2ND PLACE = ORMONDE

3RD PLACE = HOWITT

4TH PLACE = SHIPLEY

THANK YOU FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT FOR 4 DAYS OF COMPETITION YOU HAVE ALL DONE AMAZINGLY WELL ESPECIALLY IN THE HEAT



Year 6 Transition

We had 2 wonderful days meeting the Year 6 students who will be joining us in September. The days were jam packed with activities and lessons. They had the opportunity to meet their tutors and some other key staff to help with the transition.

The behaviour of the children was excellent. They engaged really well and built nice relationships with the Prefects who were supporting each tutor group. The parent meeting was really well attended which just shows us what supportive parents we are going to be working with for the next 5 years, so thank you for engaging.

The 2 days was rounded off with a game of tug of war which went down really well.

We hope you have a wonderful and safe summer, and we look forward to seeing you in September.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

DofE Bronze Practice Walk – Wednesday 8 July

On Wednesday, our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze participants set off from school bright and early, full of enthusiasm and ready for the challenge ahead.

The aim of the day was to walk to Codnor Reservoir, stop for lunch, and then return to school along the route of the disused canal. Throughout the walk, students demonstrated excellent teamwork and some impressive navigation skills as they worked their way along the planned route.

As the temperature continued to rise, the group remained in good spirits. There were plenty of laughs along the way, including some unexpected bubble-blowing from Amelia and her group, which certainly helped to keep morale high during the warmer parts of the journey!

Upon arriving at Codnor Reservoir, we were met by Mrs Jepson, who kindly brought additional water supplies from school. Students took the opportunity to refill their water bottles, enjoy their lunch and admire the ducklings and cygnets around the reservoir. They then successfully navigated their way around the site before beginning the return leg of the walk.

The journey back followed the disused canal, with students taking responsibility for navigating a section independently. As expected on a practice expedition, there were a few moments that provided valuable learning experiences, but everyone approached the challenge with determination and a positive attitude.

One particularly memorable moment came when several students excitedly pointed out what they believed were sheep and horses in a distant field. After a closer look, they were slightly surprised to discover that the animals were actually cows! This sparked a lively discussion about farm animals and, apparently, the colour of cows.

Despite temperatures reaching 31°C, all students completed the 15km walk successfully and returned to school tired but proud of their achievement. The day provided excellent preparation for next week's expedition and demonstrated the resilience, teamwork and good humour that are essential qualities for success in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Finally, I would like to thank Miss Maxwell, Miss Addison and Mrs Philbin for their support throughout the DofE programme and for helping to make the day such a success.



Trampoline & Tumbling Regional Challenge Cup Final 2026

Last weekend, Year 11 student Cole C, participated in the Trampoline & Tumbling Regional Challenge Cup Final at the Utilita Arena in Birmingham representing the East Midlands squad. We are so proud of Cole and pleased to report that he came a highly commendable 2nd place. We can't wait to hear about his tumbling progress in the future. A super star in the making! Well done Cole!



Prom 2026

What an amazing night, all the students looked lovely. They were so well behaved and everyone had a great evening. Well done to the students who won prizes. Good Luck to all the year 11 students with their next adventures.



Free School Meals Update

The Government has announced that the eligibility criteria for **Free School Meals will be changing.**

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit, regardless of household earnings, will be entitled to a free meal. Under these changes, there will be two categories of FSM eligibility:

- **Targeted FSM**

Children from households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less, will be eligible for targeted FSM. In addition to receiving free meals, Y7-Y11 pupils eligible for targeted FSM will attract pupil premium funding for their school.

- **Expanded FSM (From Sept)**

Children from households in receipt of Universal Credit, with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400 will be entitled to expanded FSM (meals only).

At Aldercar High School we use an online system that enables you to check your eligibility through the online portal Synergy. As student's circumstances may change at any time, once you have entered your details, the system will regularly update, and we will have access to up-to-date information without ever needing to contact you. This includes annual rechecks.

All you are required to do is follow the link below and enter details which include your name, date of birth and National Insurance Number:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

If you currently receive FSM, it is important that you recheck your eligibility. If an eligibility check is not completed, or if the check indicates that you are no longer eligible, your FSM entitlement will finish at the end of this term.



Diary Dates

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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Thank you to our sponsors who have helped to fund The Aldercar High School House Celebration Evenings:

