



Weekly Newsletter 17th July 2026

Dear members of the Aldercar High School community,

Although this is the penultimate week of the academic year, it has been one of our busiest. There has been an amazing climate across our school and our values of Ready, Respectful and Responsible have been lived. This week has seen many trips including Duke of Edinburgh, Alton Towers reward trip and our wonderful presentation evenings. We hope that you enjoy our weekly newsletter.

Celebration Evenings - This week we have invited some of our wonderful young people who have shown dedication, commitment and resilience over the academic year. Both evenings were a huge success, and it was a privilege to present awards to our winners. We already look forward to next year's event.

Term Date Reminders

The summer holidays are nearly here, and so we would like to share our plans to celebrate our last day in school before the summer holidays. Students will take part in carousels of sports activities, a music quiz, a beach party, and tutor activities. Students will be leaving school at 12.30pm. If you need your child to stay in school until the usual finish time of 2.55pm, please let the school know by 3pm on Tuesday so we are able to make arrangements.

We welcome back our Year 7's and Year 11's on Tuesday the 8th of September at 0825 and then the rest of the school on Wednesday the 9th of September 2026 at 0825.

Curriculum Captures: GCSE Business Studies – A Busy and Successful Year

Our Year 10 GCSE Business Studies students have had an incredibly busy and rewarding year, developing their understanding of how businesses operate and the important role they play in our economy.

Throughout the year, students have explored a range of fascinating topics. They began with Business in the Real World, where they learned about the purpose of businesses, the key ingredients needed to start a successful enterprise, and the characteristics of effective entrepreneurs. This unit provided students with a strong foundation for the rest of the course and encouraged them to think creatively and commercially.

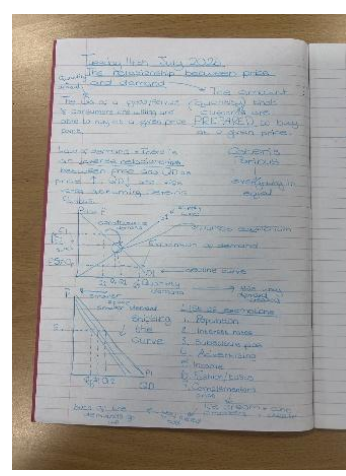
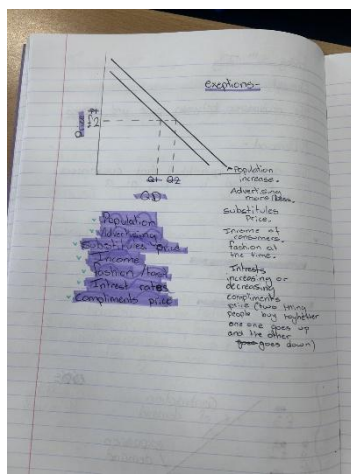
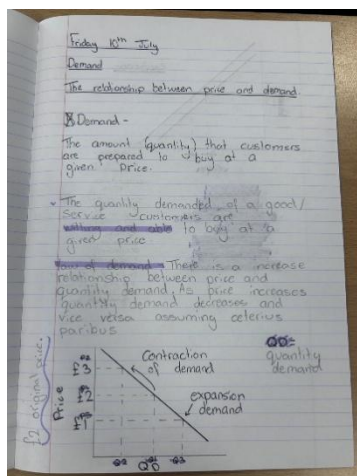
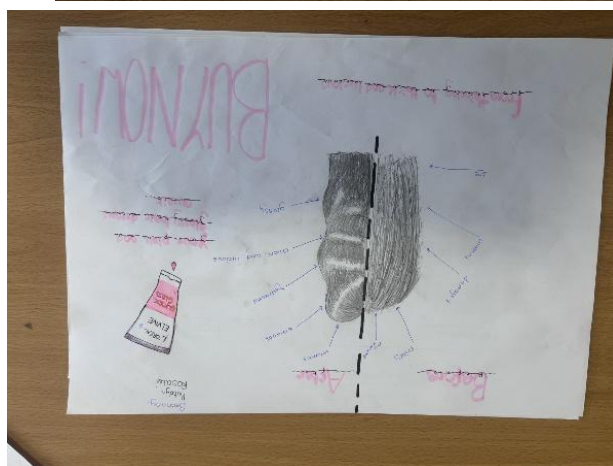
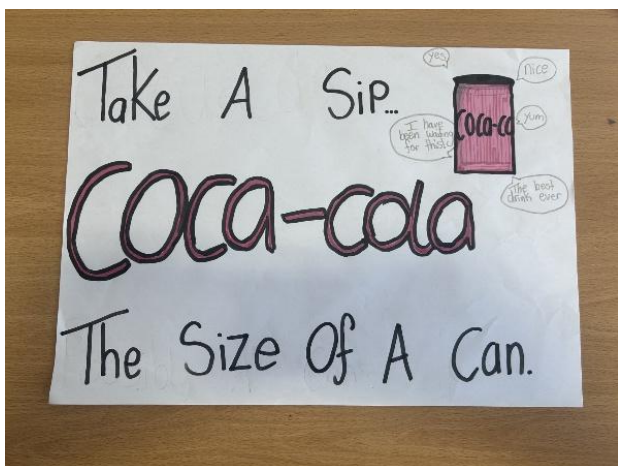
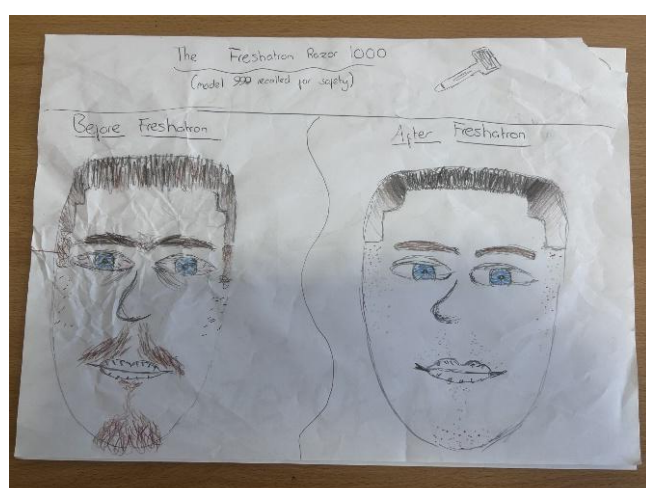
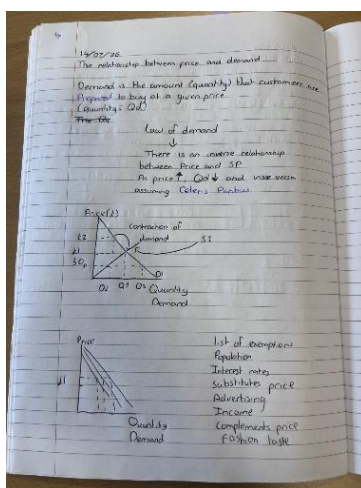
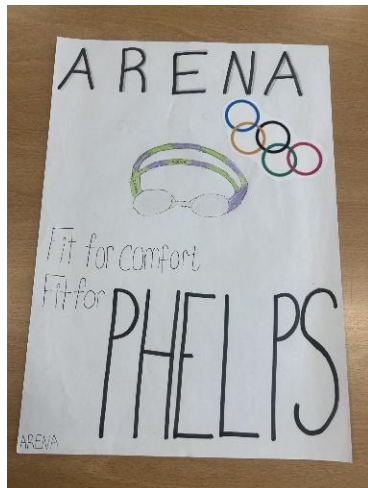
Students then moved on to Finance, developing valuable numerical and analytical skills. They learned how to calculate costs, revenue and profit, as well as how to interpret financial statements and assess business performance. This has helped them to understand the financial decisions that businesses make every day.

Most recently, students have been studying Marketing, a topic they are close to completing. They have explored what marketing is really about, investigated the features of effective (and ineffective) advertising campaigns, and examined how businesses use different promotional methods, including billboards, to attract customers. This week, students have been tackling the challenging concept of the relationship between price and demand. This is one of the more difficult areas of the course, but the students have risen to the challenge and produced some excellent work.

Please enjoy some of the accompanying photographs showcasing the creative billboard designs produced by our students, alongside examples of their recent work investigating how changes in price can influence customer demand.

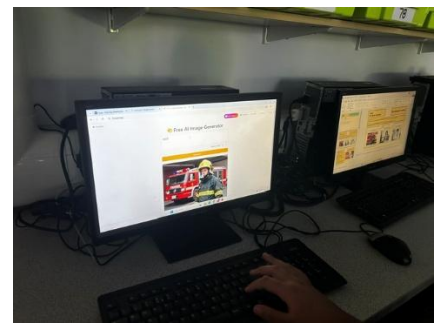
I would also like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of our Year 10 Business students for their hard work, resilience and determination throughout the year. GCSE Business is not an easy subject, and the commitment shown by this cohort has been outstanding. They have done themselves, the department and the school proud.

Well done, Year 10 – keep up the fantastic work!



Curriculum Captures: Computing

Some students have been exploring spreadsheets by creating World Cup flag and football strips, others have been experimenting with AI and discovering how it can be prejudiced and biased.



The students who didn't go on the Alton Towers trip worked on a Penalty Shoot Out App that they designed and created. They then download it to their phones.



Literary Walking Tour

On Thursday 16th July, some of our keenest Year 10 readers travelled by train to Nottingham for a literary walking tour of the city.

Led by our expert guide, the tour was both informative and enjoyable, giving us a fascinating insight into the rich literary heritage of a city on our doorstep. We discovered, for example, that Nottingham is a UNESCO City of Literature. We explored the city's impressive new library, learnt about Nottingham's rebellious past (Cheese Riots anyone?!), celebrated its many famous writers, heard about the world's first lending library, and uncovered intriguing links to football, a hidden bookshop and even Peter Pan.

The day ended with a welcome outbreak of book fever as pupils browsed the shelves of Nottingham's wonderful Waterstones store.



Science trip to the National Space Centre

This week, 48 Year 8 students enjoyed an exciting trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester. Throughout the day, students explored fascinating interactive exhibits and discovered the history of space exploration. One of the highlights of the day, was the impressive planetarium show which gave students a chance to journey into space. The students were excellent representatives of the school, demonstrating enthusiasm, respect, and exemplary behaviour. A great day was had by all.

House Celebration Evenings

This week, we were delighted to host our annual House Celebration Evenings across two fantastic events: on Monday 13th July for our Howitt and Shipley students, and on Thursday 16th July for our Gregg and Ormonde students.

Both evenings were a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students. We were proud to present a wide range of awards, including subject achievement awards, resilience awards, reading progress awards, recognition for our newly appointed prefects, medals for students who earned the highest number of house points, and awards acknowledging outstanding commitment to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The evenings truly showcased the talent, determination and dedication of our young people. It was inspiring to celebrate so many students who consistently demonstrate excellence in their studies, embrace challenges with resilience, and make such positive contributions to the wider school community. Their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment are a credit to themselves and their families, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved this year.

As well as celebrating student success, we were treated to some outstanding performances. The audience thoroughly enjoyed a drama production, The Living Museum, along with a captivating dance performance by Mila Quinn and Kathryn Walton, which added a special touch to both evenings.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our generous event sponsors – Trent Barton, Morley Hayes, Cullum Detuners Ltd and Booth's Funeral Services – whose support helped make these celebrations possible through their contributions towards awards and medals.

Congratulations to all of our award recipients and performers. These evenings were a fitting celebration of the incredible achievements, talents and contributions of our students, and we look forward to seeing their continued success in the year ahead.





Deaf and Hearing Impaired trip to Jurassic Golf

Students and friends from the Deaf and Hearing Impaired department enjoyed a fantastic trip to Jurassic Golf in Nottingham as a reward for all their hard work and achievements throughout the year.

Despite the scorching hot weather, everyone's enthusiasm and encouragement never faded. It was wonderful to see the group

supporting and cheering each other on, especially when one of the team celebrated an impressive hole in one!

After completing all 18 holes, a well-earned ice cream was the perfect way to cool down. It was a fantastic day filled with fun, laughter, and memorable moments for everyone involved.



Hearing Impaired trip to Heanor Care Park Home

Following the success of our last visit to Heanor Care Park Home, we were delighted to be invited back to spend more time with both the hearing and deaf residents. We had a wonderful morning chatting with the residents, sharing stories and reminiscing about the past. Everyone enjoyed a lively game of Bingo, with Beryl proving to be the lucky winner—taking home two victories! We were also treated to delicious pancakes served with fresh fruit before enjoying some fantastic live singing entertainment. To round off the visit, we were given the opportunity to explore the aviary outside, where we even got to hold some adorable new baby birds. It was a memorable experience for everyone, and we are incredibly grateful to the residents and staff for their warm welcome. We look forward to visiting again soon!



Life Skills Intervention Programme

Over the past seven weeks, a group of our Year 9 and 10 students have taken part in a Life Skills Academy intervention programme led by Esther Allison. The programme focused on important themes including aspirations, confidence, decision-making, healthy relationships, respect and equality. The impact was extremely positive, with students growing in confidence and becoming

increasingly willing to share their views and reflect on their choices. Feedback from the girls' group showed that 100% enjoyed the sessions and would recommend them to others, with around 90% reporting a greater understanding of how peer pressure can influence decision-making and more than 80% feeling more positive about their aspirations and the steps needed to achieve them. The boys' group demonstrated significant growth in their understanding of healthy masculinity, respect and emotional wellbeing, with all participants agreeing that it is normal for boys and men to show emotions and the majority reporting more positive attitudes and improved decision-making. Student comments included, "These sessions are very helpful to understand important things," "It's okay to show your emotions," and "I will respect people even if they have different views." We are extremely grateful to Esther for her work with our students and for helping them develop valuable life skills that will support their success both in school and beyond.



Bronze DofE Expedition – 15th–16th July

What an adventure our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students had on their recent expedition!

The journey began at Middleton Top, where all 28 students arrived looking fully equipped and ready to take on the challenge ahead. After a final kit check, it was time to set off. Four of the five groups made an excellent start, while one group managed to get lost on what appeared to be a perfectly straight footpath – proving that even the best adventurers can take an unexpected detour!

As the groups headed out across the Derbyshire countryside, there were plenty of memorable moments. One student, became fascinated by an electric fence and spent several minutes testing whether it really was switched on. We can confirm that it was!

The warm weather certainly added to the challenge. After a long climb into Ible, someone decided she needed a quick rest and seemed to have a remarkable talent for landing in exactly the wrong places – usually involving cow pats!

Despite the heat and the occasional wrong turn, the students showed excellent resilience and teamwork throughout the day. Their navigation skills were impressive, and every group successfully made it to Barn Farm Campsite. Once there, tents were pitched, camping stoves were fired up, and dinner was served. Some of the meals raised a few eyebrows, but after a full day of walking, nobody seemed too concerned about what was on the menu!

The evening was filled with football, rounders, and plenty of laughter. Some students also settled down to watch the football on my laptop, although the less said about the result, the better!

Barn Farm Campsite is a beautiful location, and the students were lucky enough to spot a wide variety of wildlife. Alongside the campsite's resident llamas and colourful peacocks, Miss Maxwell spotted a deer nearby. Later that evening, an unexpected visitor appeared when a hedgehog was discovered helping itself to the remains of my hot chocolate! The hedgehogs continued their nighttime adventures by investigating camping stoves in search of snacks. They eventually struck

gold when they found an open packet of biscuits in a group of girls tent. In return for their generosity, the hedgehogs left behind a little "thank you" gift... although we are not sure the girls appreciated it!

By 7:00am the next morning, everyone was awake, packed up, and ready for another day of adventure. It was fantastic to see such strong teamwork as the groups worked together to prepare for the day ahead, leaving the campsite spotless before setting off.

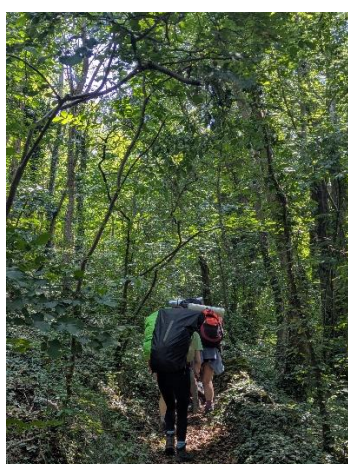
Day Two brought fresh navigation challenges, with most groups taking a little while to find the first checkpoint. However, determination paid off, and all groups successfully completed the route before arriving at Cromford Wharf, where they were gladly got into their lifts home!

Officially, the expedition route covered around 28 kilometres over the two days. Unofficially, some groups may have added a few extra kilometres while putting their navigation skills to the test!

Overall, it was a fantastic expedition and a wonderful opportunity to see our students demonstrating resilience, teamwork, independence, and a real appreciation for the outdoors. We are incredibly proud of how they supported one another, overcame challenges, and embraced every part of the experience with enthusiasm and good humour.

We will be launching Bronze DofE for our new Year 9 students and Silver DofE for our new Year 10 students from September. If you would like to get involved, please look out for the DofE assembly at the start of the new school year.

Well done to everyone who took part!



Stay Safe Around Water This Summer

As we approach the summer holidays, many of our students and families will be looking forward to spending time outdoors, visiting beaches, lakes, rivers, swimming pools, and enjoying water-based activities. While water can provide great fun and exercise, it is important to remember that it can also present serious risks if safety advice is not followed.

Every year, people across the UK get into difficulty in and around water, often because they underestimate the dangers. Cold water shock, strong currents, hidden obstacles, and deep water can affect even confident swimmers.

Key Water Safety Tips

1. Swim in Safe Locations

Always choose supervised swimming areas where lifeguards are present. Follow any warning signs and local safety advice.

2. Never Swim Alone

When swimming or taking part in water activities, go with friends or family. Look out for each other and be prepared to call for help if needed.

3. Be Aware of Cold Water

Even on warm days, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and the sea can be extremely cold. Sudden immersion can cause cold water shock, making it difficult to breathe and swim.

4. Avoid Alcohol and Risk-Taking

Alcohol and water do not mix. Poor judgement and slower reactions significantly increase the risk of accidents.

5. Respect Open Water

Open water environments can contain strong currents, hidden objects, steep banks, and sudden changes in depth. Never jump or dive into water unless it is a designated area and you know it is safe.

If You Get Into Difficulty

Remember the RNLI's advice: **Float to Live.**

- Tilt your head back with your ears submerged.
- Relax and try to control your breathing.
- Move your hands gently to help stay afloat.
- Once breathing is under control, call for help or swim to safety if possible.

If Someone Else Is In Trouble

If you see someone struggling in the water:

- ✓ Call **999** immediately and ask for the Coastguard if at the coast, or the Fire and Rescue Service for inland waters.
- ✓ Encourage them to float on their back.
- ✓ Throw something that floats to them if available.
- ✗ Do not enter the water yourself unless you are trained and it is safe to do so.

Enjoy a Safe Summer

We want all our students to have a fun, relaxing, and memorable summer break. By making sensible choices around water and looking out for friends and family, everyone can help prevent accidents and stay safe.



STREATERIES

COULD YOUR SCHOOL MEALS BE **FREE** FROM SEPTEMBER?

THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING A HUGE
CHANGE TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS STARTING
THIS SEPTEMBER.

It puts roughly **£500 a year**
back into your parents'
pockets per child - which
is a massive help.

If your family receives Universal
Credit, the income limit is being
completely removed. This means
every single student whose family
is on Universal Credit will now
qualify for free school meals.

Don't miss out:

Remind your parents or carers to check eligibility
by heading to gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.





10-2PM ★ MEAL INCLUDED ★ SHOWCASE AT THE END OF EVERY WEEK!

FREE

FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE
ON FREE SCHOOL MEALS

**PAID
PLACES
AVAILABLE!**



**DISCOUNTS
FOR EARLY BIRDS!**

AGE: 5-16 YEARS

WE HAVE 4 WEEKS WITH 4 DIFFERENT THEMES

so feel free to book on for all of them!

WEEK 1

**ROCK
THE STAGE**



3RD - 6TH AUGUST

WEEK 2

**Disney
MASH UP**



10TH - 13TH AUGUST

WEEK 3

**MINION
MADNESS**



17TH - 20TH AUGUST

WEEK 4

**MUSICAL
MA
SOLD OUT**



24TH - 27TH AUGUST



LOCATION:

ILKESTON

(MEDIA SUITES ON VERNON STREET)

CONTACT SHAUNI ON:



07792991249



Pdptheatrecompany@gmail.com



Diary Dates

Thursday 23rd July - Break up day

Thursday 13th August – A Level results day 9am

Thursday 20th August – GCSE results day 9am

Monday 7th September – Inset Day, School closed to students

Tuesday 8th September -Year 7 and 11 start back

Wednesday 9th September – Year 8, 9 and 10 start back

Kind Regards

Phil Smith

Proud Headteacher Aldercar High School

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

Chair of the Inclusion Strategy Group

Daltons Close, Langley Mill, Nottinghamshire, NG16 4HL

Tel: 01773 712477 Email: info@aldercarhighschool.co.uk

www.aldercarhigh.co.uk



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

