



Weekly Newsletter 23rd July 2026

Dear members of the Aldercar High School community,

As we close our current academic year it would only be right for us to reflect upon our last three terms. Although we have had some challenges, including heatwaves, there have also been so many wonderful things that we are immensely proud of. The introduction of our weekly newsletter after Easter has helped us communicate some of these wonderful achievements and we hope that you have enjoyed reading them.

From a personal perspective it would be remiss of us not to be proud of achieving expected standard in Inclusion, Attendance & Behaviour and Personal Development & Wellbeing when Ofsted visited us. Quotes including 'This is a caring and inclusive school. Pupils benefit from warm and positive relationships with their teachers.' are something to celebrate.

We also want to thank our teaching and non-teaching staff who work tirelessly to ensure that our vision of 'every child known, every lesson counts and every future unlocked' is lived every day.

We hope that you all have a fantastic summer break and we look forward to welcoming our young people back in September.

Return to school plans - 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.

Uniform - As a reminder, when we return to school in September we will be returning to full school uniform.

Special thank you - The following staff will be leaving us at the end of the year. We want to thank them for commitment and dedication to the young people at Aldercar High School and we wish them all the best for their next stages in life.

Mr G Nisbet
Mrs L Bennett
Mr A Leary
Mrs L Waite
Mrs H Goh
Miss L Zuccaro
Mr Z Hansen
Mr M Craft-Jones
Mrs N Walford

Welcome - We also look forward to welcoming the following colleagues to our Aldercar High School community next year.

Ms L Gonzales - Spanish
Mr J Charles - Humanities
Miss E Sutcliffe - Mathematics
Mr G Dexter - Business
Miss A McConnell - Pastoral Manager
Miss A Goulding - Learning Support Assistant
Miss C Short - Learning Support Assistant

Last day

Lots of fun has been had on our last day bin school today with students taking part in a carousel of activities including a beach party held by our very own Mr Blake. He loves to lead the Macarena and didn't let us down this year - even donning a beautiful Hawaiian shirt for the occasion!



🏆 YEAR 9 vs YEAR 10: A LUNCHTIME RIVALRY TO REMEMBER! ⚽

Over the past half term, an unforgettable football rivalry has been developing at lunchtimes on the school field as **Year 9 and Year 10** went head-to-head in the Aldercar Lunchtime League.

What began as a few friendly fixtures quickly turned into one of the most talked-about sporting events in school. Students gathered on the sidelines, teams developed fierce rivalries, and every match seemed to bring a new moment of drama, controversy or brilliance.

🏆 The League Campaign

After eight fiercely contested matches, Year 10 emerged as League Champions, winning five matches and scoring an impressive 17 goals compared to Year 9's 8.

Throughout the half term, Year 10 demonstrated consistency, quality and clinical finishing, repeatedly finding ways to convert chances when it mattered most.

However, Year 9 supporters will argue that the statistics don't tell the whole story. The younger year group created opportunities in abundance and were involved in some memorable matches, including a thrilling 4-2 victory earlier in the season. Unfortunately, they also developed a reputation for missing open goals from seemingly impossible positions. Unofficial statisticians estimate that approximately 6,767 open goals may have been missed over the course of the campaign, although this figure remains under review!

Defensively, Year 9's keeper became something of a cult hero, producing a series of outstanding saves and brave blocks throughout the season. Some observers believe his performances prevented Year 10 from scoring at least another ten goals.

There were, of course, plenty of controversial moments too. Numerous penalty appeals were passionately argued by both sides, with every bump, shoulder challenge and tangled pair of legs seemingly prompting demands for a spot kick. Unfortunately for both teams, VAR has yet to be introduced at Aldercar High School.

More importantly, the competition showcased exactly what school sport should be about: teamwork, determination, resilience, sportsmanship and plenty of laughter along the way.

🏆 The Aldercar FA Cup Final

Although the league title had been decided, there was still one final piece of silverware to be won. This week saw the inaugural **Aldercar FA Cup Final**, a winner-takes-all showdown between Year 9 and Year 10.

League form went out of the window.

The title race was forgotten.

There was one match, one trophy and one chance to finish the season as cup winners.

What followed was a tense and hard-fought encounter. Both teams defended superbly, chances were created at either end and spectators were treated to another fiercely competitive contest. However, despite all the excitement, neither side could find a breakthrough and the match finished **0-0** after normal time.

With no winner separated after the match, the final moved to penalties.

Then came the moment of drama that every cup final deserves.

After a tense shootout, **Year 9 held their nerve and secured victory in sudden death penalties**, sparking jubilant celebrations and ensuring that they would finish the season with silverware of their own.

🏆 Final Honours

Lunchtime League Champions: Year 10 🏆

Aldercar FA Cup Winners: Year 9 🏆

As with all great sporting rivalries, there were heroes, near misses, questionable decisions, unforgettable goals and moments that will no doubt be discussed for months to come.

Most importantly, the competition brought students together, encouraged participation, promoted healthy competition and created a fantastic atmosphere around school during lunchtimes.

Congratulations to both teams for their commitment, enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

The league title may belong to Year 10, but the Aldercar FA Cup is heading home with Year 9.

Until next season... 🏆 🏆 🏆



Exceptional Achievement for Two Aldercar Students

We are incredibly proud to announce that Isabell W and Kanan E have secured places on the prestigious Rolls-Royce Young Apprenticeship Programme 2026.

This outstanding achievement reflects their commitment, academic success and future potential. The programme, delivered with Rolls-Royce, allows students to spend one day each week during Years 10 and 11 completing specialist engineering training while continuing their school studies. They will gain practical and theoretical experience at the Rolls-Royce Apprentice Academy or Nuclear Skills Academy. Places are highly competitive, with applicants needing excellent attendance, strong achievement in Maths, English and Science, and a clear interest in engineering.

Over two years, students will build skills in engineering, problem-solving, maths, science and technology, gain recognised Level-2 engineering qualifications, and complete a Rolls-Royce work experience project. Completing the programme can also lead to applying for a Rolls-Royce Advanced Apprenticeship, one of the country's most sought-after engineering pathways.

Having two Aldercar students selected is a wonderful reflection of their talent, dedication and ambition, supported by their families and staff.

Congratulations to both students—we look forward to celebrating their journey over the next two years.



Year 10 Visit to Derby University to Embark Headquarters-Presentation to the Trust Board.

On Monday 20th July, Mrs Powdrill and 3 Year 10 students, Fynn S, Eva R and Daisy H attended the Embark Trust Board meeting and presented to trustees on the importance of student voice at Aldercar.

The students confidently shared how student voice plays a central role in shaping school improvement and ensuring every pupil at our school feels heard, valued and supported. Through student councils, surveys, focus groups, leadership opportunities and regular consultation activities, students actively contribute to decisions about school life.

The 2026 Embark Student Survey results highlighted many strengths, including strong pastoral care, positive relationships, promotion of wellbeing, effective careers guidance, and a culture that encourages respect, independence and responsibility. Students reported high levels of confidence in the support available to them, with 85% saying they would recommend the school to others.

The presentation also celebrated positive Ofsted feedback, which recognised the school's pastoral care, careers guidance and student leadership opportunities as key strengths

Looking ahead to 2026–27, the school aims to build on these successes while focusing on further improvements in behaviour, safety perceptions, anti-bullying work and personalised careers guidance. The overarching goal is to continue creating a safe, inclusive and ambitious environment where every student can thrive.

The morning concluded with a tour of Derby University and a special thank you from Mr Matt Crawford, Embark CEO where he presented Fynn, Eva and Daisy with a very special Embark 'Collective Commitment to Inclusion' medal.

Big thanks to Fynn, Eva and Diasy for their hard work in preparing the presentation and for representing the school so well.



School Band Strikes a Chord with Lunchtime Concert

Students gathered at lunchtime on Wednesday, 22 July, to enjoy a special performance from the school band, who delivered a short but energetic concert. The set opened with a powerful rendition of “Paranoid” by Black Sabbath, performed as a tribute to Ozzy Osbourne on the anniversary of his death. The classic heavy metal anthem was met with enthusiastic applause, setting the tone for the rest of the event.

The band then switched styles with “Boys Don’t Cry” by The Cure, showcasing their versatility and keeping the audience engaged. They brought the concert to a close with “Should I Stay or Should I Go” by The Clash. The lunchtime performance was warmly received and highlighted the talent and dedication of the school’s young musicians.





Breakfast Club

We are incredibly proud of our Breakfast Club at Aldercar. This year, we have served nearly **7,000 free breakfasts** to our students, ensuring they start each school day well-fed, focused, and ready to learn. We know that a good breakfast can make a real difference, and we are delighted to support our students and families in this way. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this initiative such a success.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students this September. We can't wait for them to become part of the Aldercar community and begin the next exciting chapter of their education.

We would like to remind all students that we offer a **free breakfast in the refectory from 8:00am every weekday morning**. Everyone is welcome to join us for a nutritious breakfast before the start of the school day.



Joel Foster Inspires Students with Music and Message

Students at our school were treated to a fantastic day of live music and inspiration as singer-songwriter Joel Foster visited to perform a series of concerts and deliver important PSHE messages.



Throughout the day, Joel performed four separate concerts, ensuring that every year group had the opportunity to enjoy his music and hear his story. The talented young musician entertained students with a lively and engaging set, showcasing his skills on both the guitar and piano, as well as his impressive vocals.

The atmosphere in each concert was great, with students singing along, clapping, and thoroughly enjoying the performances. Joel's combination of musical talent, energy and enthusiasm quickly won over his audience, creating a memorable experience for everyone involved.

However, Joel's visit was about much more than music. Between songs, he shared personal experiences and spoke openly about important topics including mental health, bullying and healthy relationships. His honest and relatable approach encouraged students to reflect on their own wellbeing and the importance of supporting those around them.

Joel Foster's visit was a tremendous success, combining outstanding live music with meaningful messages that will stay with our students. We would like to thank Joel for coming to visit our school and for providing a wonderful day of entertainment, inspiration and reflection.



Alton Towers

On Friday 17th July, we took the largest number of students we have ever taken on a trip to Alton Towers. 250 students along with 14 members of staff piled on to 3 double decker and one single decker bus and had a day packed full of thrill seeking and screaming!

Special mention for the loudest screaming has to go to Mr Shine who had never been on a rollercoaster before (and I'm not sure he will again!!).

Students were incredibly well behaved and a credit to the school and we managed to get all 250 of them back to school only 10 minutes after our original estimated time!

Thanks to all of the staff involved and thanks to the staff who held the fort back at school with the ones who didn't go.

Post-16 Inclusion trip to Skegness



Our Post 16 Inclusion Students enjoyed a fun filled week at Southview Caravan Park in Skegness. We enjoyed lots of activities, including Crazy Golf, 10 Pin Bowling, Go Karts, fun on the beach and lots of restaurants and entertainment including watching the England World Cup game.

Post-16 Inclusion trip to Brinsley Animal Rescue Centre



Our Post 16 Inclusion Students enjoyed a visit to Brinsley Animal Rescue Centre to present £180 they have raised from holding a coffee morning with a tombola stall and also selling cakes and friendship bracelets.

Summer Health Booklet

As we head into the summer holidays, we would like to share Derbyshire County Council's Summer Health Booklet, which provides practical advice and information to help children, young people, families and staff stay safe and well during the warmer months.

The booklet includes information on:

- Staying safe in hot weather
- Sun safety and skin protection
- Preventing dehydration
- Keeping children safe during the summer
- Recognising the signs of heat exhaustion and heatstroke
- Summer food safety
- Tick awareness
- Animal and farm visit safety

Please follow our link to Summer Health Booklet [HERE](#)





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





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HIRING!**



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**VACANCIES in
Derbyshire:**



Chef Manager

Multiple positions up to 40 hours / week.

Paying up to £16.50/hr

Chef / Cook

Multiple positions up to 35 hours / week.

Paying up to £15.50/hr

Catering Assistants

Multiple positions from 10 to 40 hours / week.

Paying up to £13.00 / hour

- Great opportunity to move into a fast paced, in-house role, working Monday to Friday
- Fantastic benefits to look after you and your well-being
- Exciting learning and development opportunities to support your career

If you think this position is for you, and you are available to work from September please contact Terry with your cv: Embark@aspens-services.co.uk



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Diary Dates

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

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www.aldercarhigh.co.uk



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

