



Weekly Newsletter 25th September 2026

Dear members of the Aldercar High School Community,

As another busy and rewarding week draws to a close, I would like to thank our students, staff and families for their continued support of our school. It has been a pleasure to see our young people demonstrating our values of **Ready, Respectful and Responsible** each day, whether in lessons, around the school site or through their participation in the many opportunities available beyond the classroom.

This week has been filled with successes, celebrations and hard work, and I am particularly proud of the positive culture that continues to grow across our school community. We hope you enjoy this week's newsletter, which highlights just some of the achievements and experiences that make Aldercar High School such a special place to learn and work.

Open Evening

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us at Aldercar High School on Wednesday 23rd September for our Year 5/6 Opening Evening. It was wonderful to welcome so many prospective students and their families through our doors. From exploring the school and meeting our staff to discovering everything our curriculum has to offer, there was a real buzz throughout the evening. A special thank you to our students and staff who helped make the evening such a success and showcased what makes Aldercar such a welcoming and inclusive school. We hope everyone who visited enjoyed the evening as much as we did.



A Shared Commitment to Success

At Aldercar High School, we believe that every child can achieve great things when home and school work together. We ask all parents and carers to commit to supporting their child to be the very best version of themselves by promoting excellent attendance, high standards of behaviour, positive attitudes towards learning and a willingness to embrace every opportunity available to them. Ensuring that our young people attend school after a good night's sleep and well fed, with the right equipment, will help your child be the best that they can be.

WHAT A GREAT PARENT DOES

to support their secondary school child

Small things. Every day. Big difference.

LIMIT PHONE TIME, NOT THEIR POTENTIAL



Help them find balance. Too much screen time can affect sleep, mood, focus and mental health.

Set clear boundaries and stick to them.

GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP = BETTER DAYS



A consistent routine and enough sleep improves concentration, behaviour and wellbeing.

Aim for 8–10 hours each night.

EAT WELL, FEEL WELL



Healthy eating fuels their body and brain, improves energy and supports concentration.

Encourage balanced meals and hydration.



Your support helps them believe, achieve and belong.

ENCOURAGE AND HELP WITH HOMEWORK



Homework builds independence and reinforces learning.

Show interest, ask questions, and provide a quiet space.

READING OPENS MINDS



Reading daily improves vocabulary, empathy, focus and academic success.

Encourage reading for pleasure and learning.

BE PART OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY



When parents and school work together, children thrive.



Communicate



Attend events



Volunteer if you can



Support our values and rules

ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW



Good attendance is one of the strongest predictors of success. **Ensure they attend every day, on time, ready to learn.**

ALSO, GREAT PARENTS...



TALK AND LISTEN every day

Build trust and understanding.



SET HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Believe in them and expect their best.



PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE

Help them take responsibility and problem solve.



SUPPORT WELLBEING

Notice how they are feeling and seek help if needed.



CELEBRATE SUCCESS

Recognise effort, progress and achievement.



TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP THEM SUCCEED

Thank you for being part of their journey.



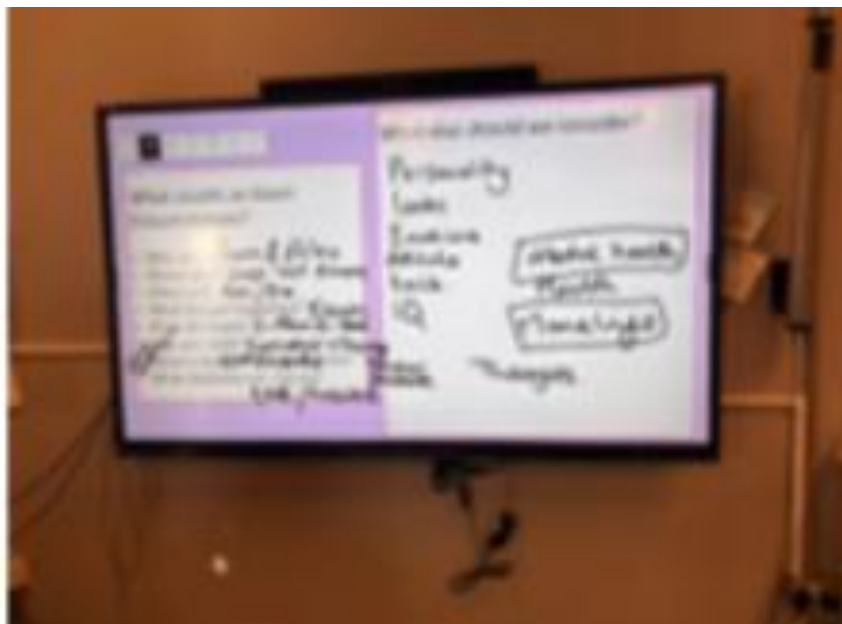
Curriculum Capture: 🎭 Performing Arts

It has been a fantastic start to the term in Performing Arts, with students across all year groups diving into exciting new projects and honing their skills!

- **Year 7:** Our newest drama students are laying down the foundations of performance, focusing on building essential vocal and physical skills to bring characters to life on stage.
- **Year 8:** Students are exploring William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. They are taking on the creative challenge of transforming this brilliant classic into their own modern versions.



- **Year 9:** It's all about the master theatre makers! Year 9 are exploring the distinctive styles of Stanislavski, Brecht, and Frantic Assembly. After participating in practical workshops for each practitioner, they will devise their very own original piece in their chosen style.



Year 10: GCSE students have been working hard to sharpen their focus, communication, and trust—vital tools as they prepare for their upcoming devised unit. They are now taking a deep dive into theatrical practitioners so they can effectively reference their influences in their controlled assessments.

☀ **Performance Club: Auditions & Rehearsals Underway!**

Rehearsals and auditions are officially kicking off for our spectacular Christmas pantomime, 'Cinderella and the Sneaker-Ball'! Expect an energetic extravaganza packed with singing, dancing, and acting. ADITITONS 29/09/26!

This year's pantomime will run alongside the Aldercar High School Talent Show. Whether you want to tread the boards in the panto or showcase a skill in the talent show, keep your eyes peeled for upcoming announcement dates, or pop in to speak to Mrs Wilde or Mrs Greenwood to find out how to get involved.

~Mrs Wilde would also like to thank all her students for their help on open evening, you were superstars! Even you Miss Murray.



Meet the Tutor Evening – Year 7

We are delighted to invite all Year 7 students and their parents/carers to our Meet the Tutor Evening on Thursday 15 October, from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet your child's tutor, learn more about life at school, discuss how your child has settled into secondary education, and ask any questions you may have. We look forward to welcoming families and working together to ensure every student has a successful and enjoyable start to their Year 7 journey.

Appointment letters have been sent home. Please book using the School Cloud website [School Cloud Login - Aldercar High School](#).



Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Day 2 – Cows, Detours and Nettles!

Day 2 began with an **early start**, as everyone emerged from their tents, packed up their equipment and prepared themselves for another full day of walking. Despite some tired legs from the previous day, spirits were high as the groups set off on the second stage of their expedition.

To begin with, most groups navigated really well and made good progress along their planned routes. However, things did not go quite so smoothly for everyone! **Brax and Jamie's group managed to take an unexpected 3km detour**, giving themselves a little more of the Peak District to enjoy than originally planned! Fortunately, they soon got themselves back on track and continued with the walk.



Once again, the local wildlife provided its own challenge. Several students found themselves having to make their way through a **field of cows**, which caused a little nervousness amongst the group. **Daisy R and her teammates soldiered bravely on**, refusing to let the bovine threat get the better of them as they continued towards their next checkpoint.

As the day progressed, **Aiva needed to take a well-earned break**, which meant Mr Prest had to step in and join one of the groups for part of their walk. Unfortunately, Mr Prest had made the rather questionable decision to wear shorts for the day.

This decision came back to haunt him when the route led straight through a large field of nettles. While Mr Prest attempted to pick his way through without getting stung, the students offered him exactly the level of sympathy you might expect... absolutely none! Instead, they found the whole situation hilarious and were thoroughly entertained by his unfortunate choice of clothing.

Despite the **extra kilometres, encounters with cows, tired legs and nettle attacks**, everyone continued to show excellent determination and teamwork. Day 2 certainly provided plenty of challenges, but also gave everyone some brilliant memories and stories to take away from the expedition!

After another successful day of walking, everyone arrived at the campsite ready for a well-earned rest. Tents were sorted, everyone settled down and it was time to enjoy a nice meal together.

Unfortunately, the weather had other ideas! As the rain began to fall, everyone took shelter and before long, **a giant game of Uno** had broken out. Things were made even more entertaining thanks to **Ella's fantastic DJ skills**, which provided the soundtrack for the evening. Then the rain somehow managed to get even heavier just as **Katie G started singing**. Coincidence? We'll let you decide!

Day Three: The Final Push

Day three began with everyone packing away their tents, organising their kit and getting ready for the final walk of the expedition.

The route took the students past **Black Rocks**, where the local parkrun was in full swing. It was fantastic to see our students stopping to clap, cheer and encourage the runners as they passed before continuing with their own challenge.

After everyone met up at the next checkpoint, the groups headed off again. Staff moved further along the route ready to meet them at the next checkpoint, but it soon became clear that one group was going to be a little later than expected.

Miss Addison sent through the news that **Ella, Elissia, Molly, Immie, Georgia, Leah and Kaja** were running behind schedule. Had they got lost? Were they struggling with the route?

Not quite.

They had stopped to attend an **impromptu lecture on life as a blacksmith!** It may not have been part of the original expedition plan, but you never know what you are going to learn when you're out exploring!

Meanwhile, the rest of the students continued along the route, eventually reaching the finish line where they were met and collected.

★ An Amazing Achievement

Across the three days, our students showed **determination, teamwork, resilience and a fantastic sense of humour.** They dealt with tired legs, changing weather, camping, cooking and navigation, while continuing to support one another throughout.

Completing a three-day expedition is a brilliant achievement, and **we are incredibly proud of every student who took part.** They should all be proud of what they accomplished and the memories they made along the way.

Well done to everyone involved! 🙌👟👍



Relational approach and rewards

This year, we have introduced our new rewards system, built around our three school values:

Ready, Respectful and Responsible.

Students earn R Points by consistently demonstrating these values in lessons and around school. Points can also be earned for things such as outstanding work, sporting success, supporting others, and going above and beyond.

Students will be able to spend their R Points in our Reward Shop, which will be open every Friday, with a range of rewards available.

A key part of our system is the **95%** threshold. This represents the balance between positive and negative points, and our aim is for every student in school to achieve and maintain 95% or above by consistently demonstrating our three values.

We will also celebrate students who achieve 95% or above through our termly reward events at the end of the Christmas, Easter and Summer terms, we aim to hold activity days for all eligible students, giving them the opportunity to celebrate their hard work and positive choices.

Reward Trip 1: Wednesday 16th December!!!

Our message is simple: Every choice counts. Every lesson counts. Every day counts.

Ready. Respectful. Responsible

School Uniform Reminder:

Please ensure that your child comes to school ready in the Aldercar High School uniform every day. Uniform requirements are:

- Aldercar High School Blazer or Jumper
- White Shirt (tucked in)
- Aldercar High School tie
- Black trousers or skirt
- Black footwear

There are a number of students without ties at the moment-please purchase these from Just Schoolwear uniform suppliers.

Celebrating an Excellent Start to the Year!

We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic start our students have made to the new academic year, with strong attendance across all year groups. It has been wonderful to see students arriving each day ready to learn, respectful towards others and responsible for their own success by making attendance a priority.

At our school, we know that excellent attendance is one of the most important factors in helping students achieve their full potential. Every lesson provides valuable opportunities to learn, develop new skills and build positive relationships. By attending school regularly, students demonstrate our core values of being Ready, Respectful and Responsible every single day.

We are incredibly proud of the commitment shown by our students and grateful for the support of parents and carers in ensuring that attendance remains a priority. The positive habits established in these first few weeks have created an excellent foundation for a successful year ahead.

Our whole-school attendance currently stands at 94.3%, reflecting the determination of our students to make the most of every school day.

Congratulations to all year groups for their excellent attendance so far:

- **Year 7: 98.7%**
- **Year 8: 95.2%**
- **Year 9: 93%**
- **Year 10: 92.3%**
- **Year 11: 92.2%**

Thank you to everyone for contributing to such a positive start to the year. Let us continue to work together to ensure that our students remain Ready to learn, Respectful in all they do and Responsible for achieving their very best. We look forward to celebrating even more attendance success as the year progresses.

Arriving on Time Matters

Being in school and arriving on time every day is essential for success. Students who arrive punctually are ready to learn from the very start of the day, ensuring they do not miss important information, learning opportunities or tutor time activities.

Students who arrive after registers close (8:55am) receive a U code, which is recorded as an unauthorised absence for that session and can have a negative impact on attendance figures. By getting to school on time, students demonstrate our school values of being Ready, Respectful and Responsible, giving themselves the best possible start to each day and setting themselves up for success.

Coming Soon: Under the weather form

We are about to launch our new 'Under the weather' form to support parents and carers in deciding if their child can still attend school if they are feeling a little unwell with minor ailments or whether they need to stay at home. The form allows parents to give school staff some information about how their child is feeling and what support school staff can put into place to support the child to remain in lessons and ensure that key learning is not missed. Please check out the form on the school website: Home-Information-Attendance.



Under the weather?

A quick guide to help you decide whether your child is well enough for school

Love Learning, Love Life.

We know it isn't always easy to tell whether a child is too poorly for school or just a bit under the weather. This guide is here to help. Our starting point is simple: if your child is genuinely too unwell to attend, they should stay at home and get better — and if they are only mildly unwell, coming in (with a little support from us) is usually the best thing for them. If you are ever unsure, please talk to us. We would much rather help you decide than have you worry alone.

A general guide

The table below follows NHS advice. It covers common situations only — if your child's illness is not listed, or you are not sure, use the “still not sure?” steps below.

Usually OK to come to school <i>if they feel well enough to take part</i>	Please keep your child at home <i>until they are well enough to take part</i>
• Cough or a common cold, with no high temperature • Sore throat, if they are otherwise well • Mild headache or feeling a bit tired • A minor tummy ache with no other symptoms • Ear infection, if they feel well enough	• A high temperature (fever) — keep home until it has gone and they feel better • Vomiting or diarrhoea — stay at home until 48 hours after the last episode • Chickenpox — stay at home until all the spots have crusted over • Scarlet fever or impetigo — stay at home; these usually need treatment from a GP before returning • Any illness where your child is too unwell to take part in the school day

REPORT ABSENCE BY PHONE : 01773 712477 EMAIL : aldercarattendance@aldercarhighschool.co	PLEASE REPORT BEFORE 8:00am each day of absence	TELL US your child's name, class/form, and what is wrong
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For a quick chat with school (optional)

If it helps to talk it through, we can note things here together — this part is optional and just helps us support your child.

Child's name / class or form	
Date	
What's wrong today	
What we've agreed	<i>(e.g. come in and we'll keep an eye on them / stay home and rest / speak again tomorrow)</i>
Anything else that would help	

Thank you for working with us. Every day your child feels well enough to be here is a day of learning, friendship and belonging — and when they are genuinely poorly, home is exactly where they should be.

Still not sure?

• Check the NHS “Is my child too ill for school?” guidance online, or call NHS 111 for free advice.

• Contact us — call 01773 712477 or email aldercarattendance@aldercarhighschool.co.uk.



Aldercar
HIGH SCHOOL

EMBARK
FEDERATION

YOUR NEXT STEP STARTS HERE!

POST-16 INCLUSION CENTRE OPEN EVENING
Tuesday 20th October 2026 at 5.30pm



COME AND DISCOVER WHAT WE CAN OFFER

Our Post-16 Inclusion Centre provides a supportive and inclusive environment for students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Come along, meet the team and find out more about the opportunities available.

Qualifications Offered

- Entry Level
- Level 1
- Level 2 Qualifications



Programmes & Activities

- BTEC Home Cooking Skills
- Functional Skills in English, Maths & ICT
- AQA Unit Award Scheme
- Trips, Activities & Residentials

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO LEARN, GROW & ACHIEVE

Contact: slongdon@aldercarhighschool.co.uk
/ afoster@aldercarhighschool.co.uk
Aldercar High School, Daltons Close, Langley Mill, NG16 4HL
Tel: 01773 712477 Ext. 0040



Book Review

Paper Weight by Meg Haslam

What did you think of the book?

I would recommend, really nice



Runners

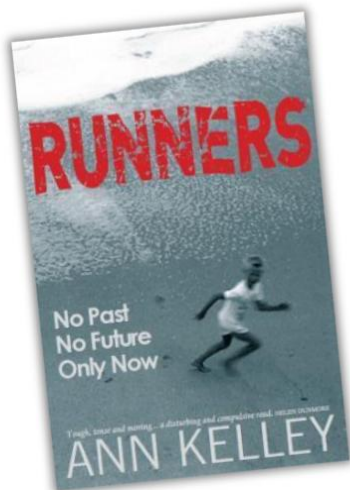
by Ann Kelley

What did you think of the book?

It was war related which I like

What three books would you use to describe it?

Dark, suspenseful,. compulsive



Maddie C,

7A

Got an opinion about something
you've read?

See Miss Bell in the library





COMIC CLUB

ALL AGES WELCOME

NEW!

A NEW Comics Club: for fans of manga, anime, comics, graphic novels, and more.

Starting in October, Thursdays 3–4pm in the library

- write and draw your own comics
- how-to videos
- reviews and recommendations
- games and crafts
- fan fiction
- tasting parties
- author profiles

STARTS THU 1ST OCTOBER 3-4PM

TELL Miss Bell in the library
if you want to come



マンガエル



Aldercar
High School

LEARN BELONG ACHIEVE

ALL
ABILITIES
WELCOME!

MULTISPORTS

AT ALDERCAR HIGH SCHOOL

TRY NEW SPORTS | KEEP ACTIVE | MEET NEW PEOPLE | HAVE FUN



FOOTBALL



BASKETBALL



TABLE TENNIS



BADMINTON



GYM / FITNESS



EVERY
THURSDAY



2:55 – 3:55PM



SPORTSWEAR
REQUIRED

This can be any sportswear
including PE kit.

MULTIPLE
SPORTING OPTIONS
EACH WEEK!



OPEN TO
ALL STUDENTS



GET ACTIVE



TRY
SOMETHING NEW



MEET
NEW PEOPLE



HAVE FUN

SAME SCHOOL. **MORE OPPORTUNITIES.**

OUR VALUES



READY



RESPECTFUL



RESPONSIBLE

A STRONGER
BRIGHTER
TOGETHER

RESPONSIBLE

RESPECTFUL

READY



Aldercar
HIGH SCHOOL



BREAKFAST CLUB

FREE BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING

IN THE PHOENIX BUILDING

≡ INCLUDING: ≡



TOAST



BAGELS



JAM



CHOCOLATE
SPREAD



BISCOFF
SPREAD



JUICE



FRESH
FRUIT



☆ **THE BEST WAY TO**
START THE SCHOOL DAY ♥



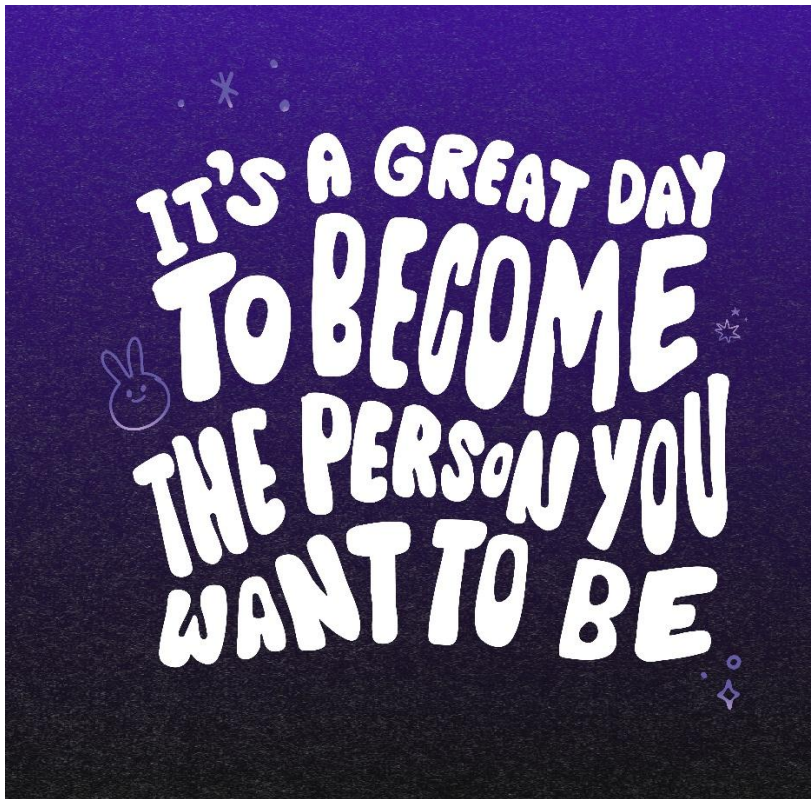
EVERY
CHILD KNOWN



EVERY
LESSON COUNTS



EVERY
FUTURE UNLOCKED



Soluna is **a space to be you.**

Get **free mental wellbeing support** when you need it – live **one-on-one text chats** with real professionals, **journalling**, and loads more.



Scan the **QR code** to download or visit **SolunaByKooth.com**



Diary Dates

Thursday 1st October – Geography fieldwork coastal trip

Thursday 15th October – Meet the Tutor evening -Year 7 16:00 – 19:00

Tuesday 20th October – Post-16 Inclusion evening

Friday 23rd October – Inset day

Monday 25th-29th October – Half term week

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

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www.aldercarhigh.co.uk

