



Aldercar High School



Every Child Known, Every Lesson Counts,
Every Future Unlocked





Welcome to Aldercar High School

Headteachers Welcome

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Aldercar High School. Our aim is to provide every young person with an engaging and enriching educational experience that supports both academic achievement and personal development. As a smaller school, we are proud of our inclusive nature, strong sense of community and the high ambitions we hold for every student.

At the heart of our work is a simple but powerful vision: *every child is known, every lesson counts and every future is unlocked*. This underpins everything we do and ensures that all students are supported to achieve their very best during their time with us.

While we place great importance on academic success and strive to meet and exceed national expectations, we believe that education is about much more than examination results. We are committed to developing the whole child through a broad and balanced curriculum, nurturing qualities such as confidence, resilience and self-belief, and ensuring that every individual's talents are recognised and celebrated.

We know that the most successful outcomes are achieved when school, home and students work in partnership, united by high expectations. This includes excellent attitudes to learning, pride in appearance, strong attendance and punctuality, and respect for others.

Aldercar High School is a vibrant and supportive community where students thrive through our shared values of **Ready, Respectful and Responsible**. As part of the Embark Federation, we are also guided by the principle of love learning, love life, which shapes our culture and aspirations for all.

We look forward to welcoming you and working together as part of our school community.

Kind Regards

Phil Smith

Proud Headteacher Aldercar High School
'Every child known, every lesson counts, every future unlocked'
Chair of the Inclusion Strategy Group

Admissions Policy

Students are admitted to Aldercar High School at the age of 11 years without reference to ability or aptitude. The number of places available for September 2027 will be 120. The school will consider all applications. Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the criteria for admission as laid down in the full policy will apply. We conform to the local authority admission policy.

Applications for places at Aldercar High School must be made through the local authority:

Central Admissions

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/secondary-admissions/secondary-school-admissions.aspx>

Applications can only be made from this website.



School Vision and Values

In a world where the educational, social and economic landscape is changing rapidly, both locally and nationally we recognise our responsibility to prepare our young people for far more than examinations alone. At Aldercar High School, we are committed to developing the whole child, ensuring that every student leaves us not only with strong academic outcomes, but also with the character, resilience and confidence to thrive in a constantly evolving world.

Guided by our core vision of
Every Child Known
Every Lesson Counts
Every Future Unlocked

and underpinned by our values of
Ready
Respectful
Responsible,

we provide an education that nurtures curiosity, builds independence and equips students with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to succeed in later life, whether that be in further education, university or employment.

We believe that a strong partnership between school and home is essential in supporting every child to succeed. We therefore hold high expectations of all members of our school community so we can work together to ensure the very best outcomes for our young people. These expectations are clearly outlined in the Aldercar High School Home School Agreement, which is shared and upheld by all stakeholders.

Student	Parent	School
Attend school every day and on time. Arrive prepared and <i>equipped</i> for all lessons and in the correct uniform.	Ensure your child attends school on time every day. They wear the correct uniform, are <i>equipped</i> and understand the school's expectations.	<i>Maintain consistently high expectations</i> so that all young people are able to thrive.
<i>Participate</i> with all aspects of school life and behave in a respectful manner to all staff and students. Take part in extra curricular clubs, activities and educational school trips.	<i>Participate</i> in parents' evenings and school events, both face to face and virtual. Demonstrate respect and support for staff.	<i>Foster a strong sense of belonging</i> , supporting excellent attendance, recognising that every day in school matters and every absence is lost learning.
Have <i>high expectations</i> of themselves and others, push themselves continually to improve in all aspects of school life. Demonstrate resilience by working hard to overcome barriers in school work and in life.	Have consistently <i>high expectations</i> of your child and <i>challenge</i> them to be the best version of themselves.	<i>Provide a high-quality universal offer</i> for all students, including effective teaching, an engaging curriculum and a rich wider enrichment programme.
Actively <i>engage</i> with all aspects of learning. <i>Challenge</i> themselves, never give up and ask for help if needed.	Actively <i>engage</i> with all aspects of your child's learning, especially reading, revision and homework. Work collaboratively with the school to celebrate praise and support sanctions.	<i>Deliver a comprehensive graduated response to inclusion</i> , ensuring that all young people can access learning and meet our shared expectations.
Take full <i>responsibility</i> for all actions, behaviour and language. Champion all members of the classroom community and respect the school environment.	Communicate any change of personal details with school. Promote your child's healthy lifestyle including diet, sleep and a <i>responsible</i> use of social media.	<i>Recognise and celebrate success</i> , rewarding students when they meet and exceed expectations.



Curriculum offer

A broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum that helps every student find their path.

At Aldercar High School, our curriculum is designed around our community: broad enough to open doors, balanced enough to build confidence, and flexible enough to meet the needs of a truly comprehensive intake. Students are supported to succeed in and enjoy their studies — from highly academic routes, including courses that help prepare students for Oxbridge and other elite universities, through to programmes that strengthen life and learning skills.

Key Stage 3: building a strong foundation

At Key Stage 3, students follow the national curriculum and experience a rich range of subjects. This gives them the knowledge, skills and curiosity they need before making informed choices for Key Stage 4 and beyond.

Art	Mathematics
Design and Technology	Moral and Ethics
English	Music
Food and Nutrition	Performing Arts
Geography	Physical Education
History	Science
ICT	Spanish

Options guidance: Towards the end of Key Stage 3, we work closely with students and their parents/ carers to guide them through their options for study at Key Stage 4 and beyond.





Key Stage 4: core learning that keeps choices open

At Key Stage 4, all students continue to study a strong core of compulsory subjects. This ensures every student leaves with the essential qualifications, knowledge and wider understanding needed for future study, training and employment.

Core qualifications	
English Language	Double Science/Triple Science
English Literature	Mathematics
Core wider curriculum (non-examined)	
Morals and Ethics	Physical Education

Student choice: three option subjects

Students then select three subjects from the option offer below. This blend of GCSE and BTEC pathways means students can choose subjects that match their strengths, interests and future ambitions.

Options pathway (please note these are subject to change)		
Art (GCSE)	Geography (GCSE)	Performing Arts (BTEC)
Business Studies (GCSE)	Health and Social Care (BTEC)	Spanish (GCSE)
Construction (BTEC)	History (GCSE)	Sport (BTEC)
	ICT (BTEC)	

English Baccalaureate: an ambitious academic route

It is the government’s ambition that students study the English Baccalaureate. This means choosing either History or Geography and a language. Students have the option to study these subjects into Year 10, giving them a greater chance of being accepted into elite universities in the future.

Learning beyond subject lessons

All students at Aldercar High School also study the following through lessons, tutor time, assemblies and cross-curricular links:

- Citizenship
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (SMSC)

Our curriculum is about more than subjects: it is about opening doors, raising aspirations and helping every student take their next step with confidence.



Embark Federation: Collective Commitment to Inclusion

We pride ourselves on embedding the trust core values of Family, Integrity, Teamwork and Success. These values underpin all of the work that we do in school and ensure that our students feel a sense of belonging, that our differences are celebrated with dignity and respect, that we work collectively with others so that we feel included in our school community and that we have strong aspirations for the future.

We have strong links with our partner primary schools so that we can ensure that the transition to Aldercar High School is as smooth and stress-free as possible for both our students and their parents.

Every student has the support of a dedicated Form Tutor and Pastoral Manager who reinforce Aldercar High School's commitment to excellence. At the same time, we support our students to develop both personally and socially.

Each year group has a unique programme of study tailored to their particular needs and stage of learning. This encourages our students to become more independent and enlightened individuals. Students experience high quality teaching and learning, including opportunities to work closely with our community partners.

At Aldercar High School, we seek to enhance the knowledge of our students and to improve their personal skills in a variety of areas in order to best prepare them for life in the 21st century. These areas include health, careers, sex and relationships, study skills and enterprise.



When students join the school in Year 7, they are placed into a tutor group with other Year 7 students. They have a dedicated form tutor who will fully support them in their transition from primary to secondary school. Form tutors are the most important member of staff in school for your child. They will oversee all of their students' academic and pastoral needs in school and will endeavour to provide the support that your child may need.

We believe that our tutoring system:

- eases transition between key stages i.e. Years 6 into 7, 9 into 10 and 11 into 12;
- allows pupils to share experiences with children of their own age as well as creating a sense of belonging to a house system;
- allows focussed and differentiated specific year-based work to take place i.e. options talk for Year 9 and CV writing for Year 11;
- enables tutors to watch their tutor group grow and flourish over the years;
- contributes to the whole school literacy strategy.

We have invested in an extended team of non-teaching staff that assist form tutors in their role of supporting our students. These include:

- Year 7 Pastoral Manager
- Year 8 Pastoral manager
- Year 9 Pastoral Manager
- Year 10 Pastoral Manager
- Year 11 Pastoral Manager
- Family Support Worker
- Attendance Manager
- Internal Alternative Provision Manager
- SENCO & Assistant SENCO



Aldercar High School

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UNIVERSAL OFFER

Quick Reference Guide for Teachers

Positive relationships

High expectations with appropriate support

Visual supports and modelling

Clear routines and consistency

Explicit teaching of emotional literacy

Inclusive classroom climate

Collaboration with parents and specialists

Follow individual support plans

Soft front, hard back

COMMUNICATION & INTERACTION

Who might this support?

Students with speech, language and communication needs, autism, and social communication difficulties.

- Use simple language
- Allow processing time
- Use visual timetables and visual aids
- Give clear step-by-step instructions
- Structure group work
- Provide word banks
- Use sensory regulation supports
- Use technology to support learning

COGNITION & LEARNING

Who might this support?

Students with dyslexia, dyscalculia, memory difficulties, processing needs and general learning difficulties.

- Chunk information into small steps
- Model and demonstrate first
- Use writing frames and scaffolds
- Pre-teach key vocabulary
- Use diagrams and graphic organisers
- Check understanding regularly
- Allow extra processing time
- Provide clear success criteria

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL & MENTAL HEALTH

Who might this support?

Students experiencing anxiety, emotional regulation difficulties, attachment needs or behavioural challenges.

- Reinforce positive behaviour
- Maintain predictable routines
- Use emotion coaching
- Daily check-ins with trusted adults
- Use calm de-escalation language
- Provide safe spaces when needed
- Work closely with parents/carers
- Promote fun, belonging and wellbeing

SENSORY & PHYSICAL

Who might this support?

Students with hearing or visual impairments, physical disabilities or sensory processing differences.

- Optimise seating arrangements
- Reduce noise and distractions
- Consider lighting and visual access
- Allow movement and brain breaks
- Use specialist equipment
- Provide adapted resources
- Ensure clear pathways
- Support hearing/vision access

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EVERY TEACHER IS A TEACHER OF EVERY CHILD

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Working in Partnership

At Aldercar High School, we firmly believe that strong partnerships between school and home are essential to a student's success. When parents and teachers work closely together, children benefit from a consistent, supportive environment that reinforces high expectations, nurtures wellbeing, and celebrates progress. We value open communication, mutual respect, and shared responsibility—recognising that by working as a team, we can provide the best possible opportunities for every child to thrive, both academically and personally

As a school, we aim to:

- provide personalised access for parents to Arbor which allows parents to keep informed electronically of the school life of your child;
- assess student progress against their subject targets and report this home to parents;
- invite parents to subject parents' evening to discuss the progress of students in their subjects;
- keep in contact with parents through letters and text messages home as well as via a weekly newsletter.

As parents, you will take an active interest in the progress of your child by:

- ensuring high levels of attendance and good punctuality of your child (97% or above);
- attending parent's evenings and tutor review appointments;
- accessing Arbor to:
 - track the attendance, punctuality, and behaviour of your child;
 - keep up to date with the progress, timetable, calendar and notices specific to your child;
 - edit personal details as well as inform the school of any absences for your child.





Accommodation for Learning

Students and staff enjoy learning and working in first class teaching facilities for Science, Art, Information Technology, Technology and Food Technology along with a library and an Enhanced Resourced Facility to meet the needs of hearing impaired and physically impaired students. In addition, there are general teaching areas as well as the main hall, dining facilities and office accommodation.

Recently the facilities at Aldercar High School have been enhanced with the upgrade of the 3G floodlit football pitch, as well as installation of SMART Screens to improve the visual learning experience in each classroom.

All of these premium facilities enable us to deliver high quality teaching and learning that both inspire and enthuse our students.

We have excellent sports facilities including a full size, state-of-the-art sports hall, a floodlit 3G football/ rugby pitch, netball and tennis courts, a fitness suite and grass pitches. These excellent facilities allow a wide variety of individual and team sports at all levels, whilst developing skills such as resilience and co-operation which are important in creating a purposeful life.

In addition, the school is set in attractive grounds with plentiful car parking, which contribute to a welcoming physical environment.

At Aldercar High School, we are committed to ensuring that our school is fully accessible to all members of our community. Our site has been carefully designed and adapted to meet a wide range of needs, enabling every student, staff member, and visitor to feel safe, welcome, and included. We believe that accessibility is fundamental to equality, and we continually review our environment and practices to remove barriers and promote full participation for everyone.



Uniform

Achieving high standards is important in everything that our students do and uniform standards are no exception. At Aldercar High School our students take great pride in their appearance. As a result, our students look smart and dignified.

Uniform at Aldercar High School:

- official black school blazer with school badge **or**
- official black school jumper with school badge
- clip-on tie in school colours
- smart black trousers, black skirt or black tailored shorts with school badge
- plain white shirt with buttoned collar
- plain black footwear

PE uniform at Aldercar High School:

- Aldercar High School embroidered unisex polo shirt/plain black polo shirt
- Aldercar High School panelled sports shorts / Aldercar High School panelled skort/plain black shorts or skort
- Black sports leggings
- Sports socks
- Trainers for the sports hall/courts
- Astro turf trainers for the 3G pitch

Optional items

- Aldercar High School 1/4 zip sweater
- Plain black tracksuit bottoms

The Aldercar School uniform is available direct from our supplier:
Just Schoolwear
289 Main Street, Bulwell, Nottingham, NG6 8ED
0115 9621128

Use plastic-studded footwear only (no metal studs)



Do not use blades, dimpled or flat solid shoes





The Phoenix Centre



The Sports Hall



Main School

ALDERCAR HIGH SCHOOL



Aldercar High School

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