



Weekly Newsletter 16th October 2026

Dear members of the Aldercar High School Community,

It is sometimes easy, amid the pace of school life, to move quickly from one week to the next without stopping to notice just how much our young people achieve. This week, I have particularly enjoyed seeing the little moments that demonstrate what Aldercar is all about: students working hard, supporting one another, responding positively to encouragement and taking pride in doing the right thing. Those moments may not always make the headlines, but collectively they create the positive, inclusive school culture we want for our young people and show that our values of Ready, Respectful and Responsible are lived.

Date Reminder - On Friday the 23rd of October, Aldercar High School will be closed as it is one of our INSET Days. We will then reopen on, after half term, on Monday the 2nd of November.

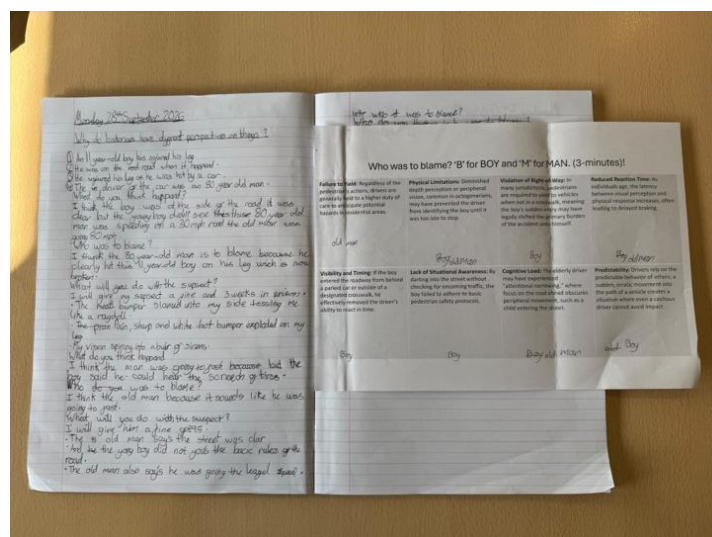
Newsletter quote of the week:

"Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day." — Dalai Lama

Curriculum Captures: History

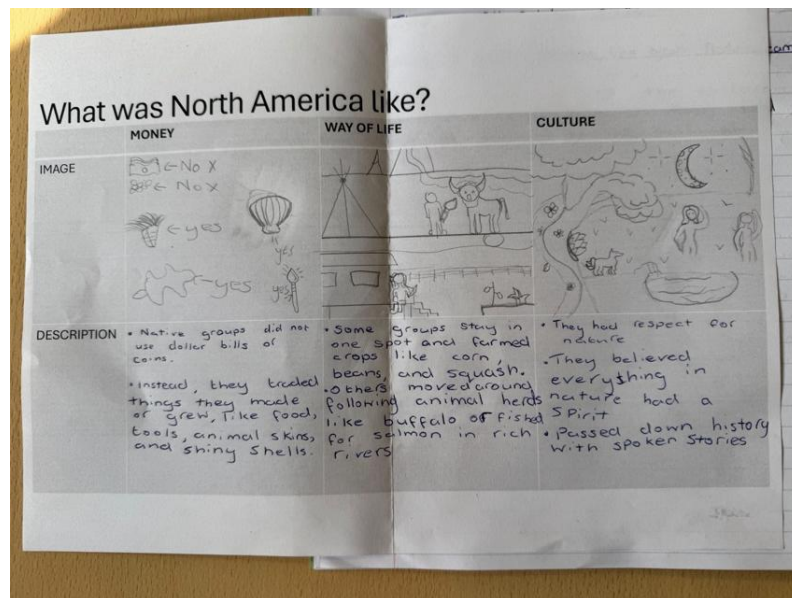
Year 7

Year 7 have been learning about what it means to be a historian. We have been investigating evidence, coming to conclusions; understanding what Anglo Saxon society was like. They have been doing a fantastic job of developing core skills to become intelligent and skilful historians.



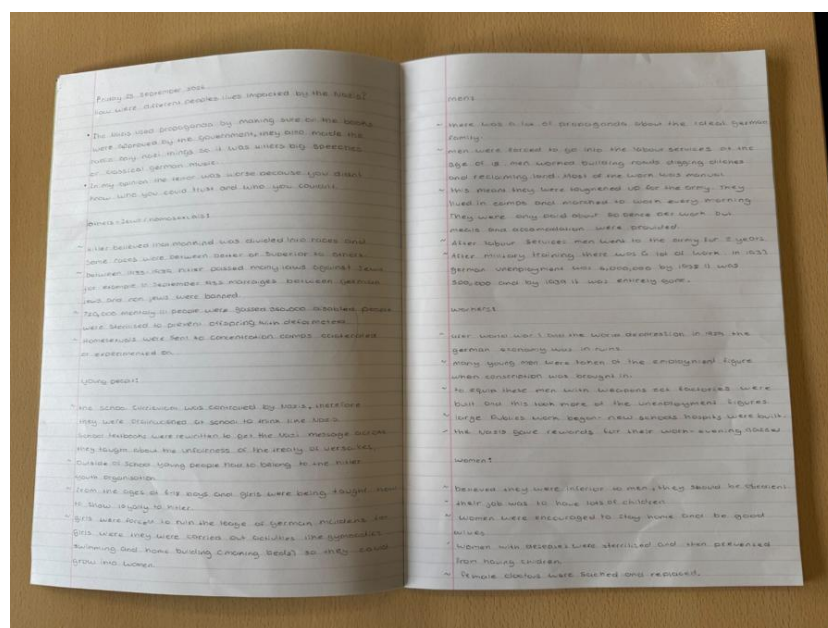
Year 8

Year 8 have been learning about the British empire. They have been investigating case studies and weighing up evidence to understand how the empire grew, the positives and negatives and understanding its impact.



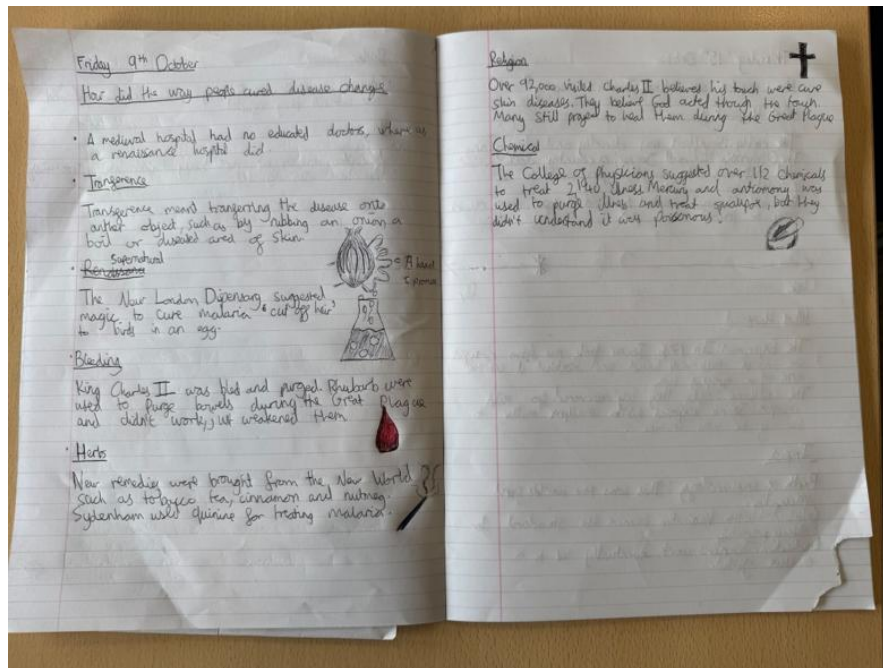
Year 9

Year 9 have been analysing 1930s Germany to understand why the Nazis gained power. They have been looking at politics, government; social change as well as how the Nazis changed the lives of ordinary people. After October we will use this knowledge to further investigate the effects of the Holocaust.



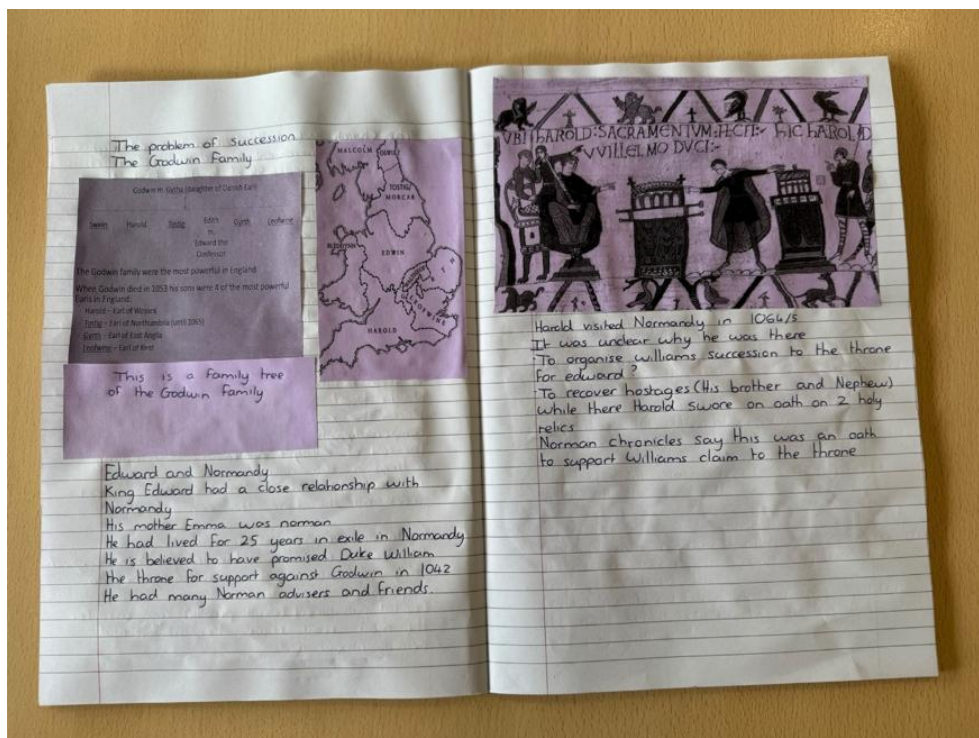
Year 10

Year 10 have been diving into medicine. We are investigating how medicine progressed from the medieval times up to modern times. We have been making judgements on grotesque practises, crazy theories to understanding peoples beliefs.



Year 11

Year 11 have been investigating 1066 and how Britain developed and changed under the Normans.



NGRT Reading Tests

Year 7 will be completing an NGRT (New Group Reading Test) in their Computing lessons next week. These are similar to the Sparx Reading tests but will give much more detail about student reading ability and any areas that need improvement. We will then use both tests to determine which students need further reading support and which intervention would help them make more progress.

At Aldercar High School we believe that reading is a foundational skill that, when improved, will enable learning in all areas of the curriculum. This will then boost achievement and progress; GCSE examinations are set at an average reading age of 16 years and 7 months. Therefore, any reading you can do with your child at home really supports their learning, even when they reach their teenage years. To support reading at home, all students will have a Sparx Reader log in that matches their normal school log in and be accessible from home as well as in school. Students also have an opportunity to take out reading books from our well-stocked library with students in Year 7 and 8 having a dedicated Library lesson each week to facilitate this.

NGRT tests will be rolled out for some students in other year groups later in the Autumn Term where we need a clearer picture of student reading ability and any challenges they may have.



Sparx Reader. Maths and Science Update

Sparx Reader

Sparx Maths

Sparx Science

PLEASE TRY LOGGING IN FROM HOME

By October Half Term all students will have had a Sparx Reader session - learning how to log in and choose their first book. We would now like students to start logging in at home and completing at least 300 Sparx Reader Points (about 30 mins reading) each week. This will be converted to 50 extra Aldercar R points! This will be the same for Sparx Maths and Sparx Science using XP points.

To get onto Sparx reader, students need to go to www.sparxreader.com

Click the login button (top right hand side of screen) and Enter 'Aldercar High School' when asked for school name.

Then click the 'Log into Sparx using Microsoft' blue button.

Please note: Sparx uses the usual school email and password students use to access computers in school. If it does not work, please check that the email is the **new updated email** which should be –

Start year then **first initial** then **surname** followed by **@students.aldercarhighschool.co.uk**

e.g. Joe Bloggs in Year 7 would be
26jbloggs@students.aldercarhighschool.co.uk

Santa Clause in Year 8 would be
25sclause@students.aldercarhighschool.co.uk

Please try to log in this week and let us know if you are having any issues with access. The computer room will be open at lunchtime if any student needs help logging in at school or at home. Parent/Carers can also contact school using the info@aldercarhighschool.co.uk email.

Amber Valley Indoor Athletics Competition

On Wednesday afternoon, our wonderful Year 7 and Year 8 students travelled to Alfreton Leisure Centre to represent the school in the Amber Valley School Sport Partnership (AVSSP) Indoor Sportshall Athletics competition.

It was a high-energy event and the students threw themselves into multiple different activities.

Out of 7 competing schools from across the region, our team put in an outstanding performance to secure a fantastic 3rd place finish overall!

Every single student gave 100% in their events, pushing themselves to the limit while demonstrating superb team spirit. They were an absolute credit to our school community and should be incredibly proud of their achievements.

A huge congratulations to all our athletes



Ada Lovelace Day

Well Done Everyone for your efforts during the Maths Ada Lovelace Treasure Hunt.

Over 100 Students completed the treasure hunt and have now received their R Points.

I was particularly impressed by one student who went over to Hucknall to visit Ada's grave, and also found out some facts about Ada and this is what she wrote.

"Ada was buried next to her father in Hucknall, her father was Lord Byron. She was the world's first computer programmer but she did not receive much recognition when she was alive. She died from Uterine Cancer and sadly she was a compulsive gambler. She died at the age of 36, which was the same age as her dad."



Year 11 Mock Exams

Year 11 have made a fantastic start to this academic year, and in the Photography mock exam yesterday, students produced some fantastic work that they should be incredibly proud of.

Please find below the Year 11 mock exam timetable for November. Exams will begin at 9.15am each day. Students should come to school at the normal time of 8.20am so they can prepare for their mock exams.

Afternoon exams will begin at 1.15pm. Please note that exams for some students will finish after our usual finish time of 2.55pm, and therefore please bear this in mind if you need to make alternative arrangements for travel home from school.

YEAR 11 MOCK TIMETABLE NOVEMBER 2026							
Friday 6th Period 5 - No PE Lesson - Exam Rules Assembly							
		9:15am	1:15pm			9:15am	1:15pm
W/C 9 NOV 26		YEAR 11		W/C 16 Nov 26		YEAR 11	
09-Nov	Monday	EXTERNAL EXAMS	Biology 1h 45m Combined Science 1h 15m	16-Nov	Monday	Food 1hr 45 mins Geography (Human) 1h	History Paper Paper 2 (Cold war) 55m
10-Nov	Tuesday	English Language Paper 1 1h 45	Spanish Writing (H) 1h 15m (F) 1h	17-Nov	Tuesday	Mathematics Paper 2 & 5 1h 30m	Construction (online) 1h 30m
11-Nov	Wednesday	Geography (Physical) 1h	Business Paper 1h 45m	18-Nov	Wednesday	Physics 1h 45m Combined Science 1h 15m	History Paper Paper 3 (USA) 1h 30m
12-Nov	Thursday	English Language Paper 2 1h 45	History Paper 1 (Medicine) 1h 20m	19-Nov	Thursday	Mathematics Paper 3 & 6 1h 30m	Spanish Reading (H) 1hr (F) 45m Listening (H) 45m (F) 35m
13-Nov	Friday	Mathematics Paper 1 & 4 1h 30m	Chemistry 1h 45m Combined Science 1h 15m	20-Nov	Friday	Spanish Speaking 30 mins	Spanish Speaking 30 mins
						Health & Social care PSA	Health & Social care PSA

On Friday 6th November, there will be an exam rules assembly instead of Year 11s normal PE lesson. Students may be then released from school at around 2.40pm. If you need your child to stay in school until 2.55pm, then please do let Mrs Larkin know by Wednesday 4th November.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Year 11.

Rewards Shop Opens Its Doors

We are delighted to announce that our new Rewards Shop officially opened today! Over the past few weeks, students have been working hard to earn R Points by consistently demonstrating our school values of being Ready, Respectful and Responsible. It has been fantastic to see so many students collecting points and taking pride in their positive behaviour, effort and contributions to school life.

Year 11 students have already enjoyed spending their hard-earned R Points on a range of exciting rewards and goodies, with something available for everyone. The Rewards Shop is a great way to recognise and celebrate the excellent choices our students make every day.

Next week's opening schedule is:

- **Year 10:** Monday
- **Year 9:** Tuesday
- **Year 8:** Wednesday
- **Year 7:** Thursday



We encourage all students to keep earning their R Points and look forward to seeing many more visits to the Rewards Shop throughout the year. Well done to everyone who has embraced our Ready, Respectful, and Responsible values!



Activity Day 1 Rewards Trips – Letters Have Arrived! 📬



There was plenty of excitement around school today as students who have achieved our 95% R Points standard received their Activity Day 1 preference letters!

As a reward for consistently being Ready, Respectful and Responsible, students now have the opportunity to express their interest in one of our fantastic rewards trips:

- 🏰 Nottingham Christmas Market (*Key Stage 4 students only*)
- 🎡 Roller World, Derby (*Key Stage 3 students only*)
- 🎬 Ilkeston Cinema (*Open to all students*)

These trips are a celebration of the hard work, positive attitudes and excellent conduct our students demonstrate every day. We are delighted to be able to offer such exciting experiences as a reward for their commitment and achievement.

To secure a place on one of these trips, students must maintain the 95% R Points standard by Friday 13 November. Following this date, confirmation letters will be issued to eligible students. Keep up the fantastic work and continue collecting those R Points. We can't wait to see our students enjoying these well-earned rewards! 🌟 ⌚ 🎉

Duke of Edinburgh Update



This week saw the launch of the Bronze and Silver DofE Scheme in school, Year 9 and 10 were all handed letters about the scheme and if they want to take part they need to return the reply slips to Mr Prest by Thursday 22nd October.

Details for Gold DofE for Year 11 will be coming after October half term, so please keep on submitting evidence.

Have Your Say on Crime and Community Safety in Derbyshire

The **Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Nicole Ndiweni-Roberts**, is inviting young people to share their views on crime, anti-social behaviour and community safety through the annual **Listening to You Survey**.

The survey helps to ensure that the Commissioner's priorities reflect the issues that matter most to people living in Derbyshire. Young people's perspectives are especially important, and students in **Year 10 and above** are encouraged to take part.

The survey takes approximately **four minutes** to complete and is open to Derbyshire residents. Parents, carers and school staff who live in Derbyshire are also welcome to share their views.

Take part in the Listening to You Survey 2026/27:

[Police & Crime Commissioner Nicolle Ndiweni-Roberts' Listening To You Survey 2026/27](#)





Understanding ADHD

Recognising differences. Supporting every learner.



Every young person is different

ADHD stands for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. It affects attention, activity levels and impulse control. Some young people mainly struggle with attention; others experience restlessness and impulsivity, or both. Each student needs individual support.



Attention & focus

A student may be easily distracted, miss information or find instructions difficult to follow. In a lesson, this might mean losing track of an explanation and needing help to return to the task.



Movement & restlessness

Some students fidget, tap their feet or feel a strong need to move. Sitting still for a long lesson can be difficult. Planned movement breaks can help make learning more manageable.



Pausing & waiting

A young person may interrupt, call out or struggle to wait their turn. Calm reminders, clear expectations and support with turn-taking can help them take part successfully.



Less obvious signs

ADHD does not always involve visible hyperactivity. A quiet student may still struggle with attention or forget everyday tasks. Inattentive signs can be harder to recognise, particularly in girls.



Helping students thrive

Small adjustments can make learning more accessible.



Clear steps

Useful classroom approaches include short instructions, given one step at a time. Written or visual reminders can reinforce spoken explanations. Breaking longer tasks into smaller stages makes the next step clear.



Space to focus

Seating arrangements and reducing distracting noise or visual clutter may help. Shorter periods of focused work, with agreed movement breaks, can support participation. Adjustments should reflect the individual student's needs.



Encouragement matters

Notice effort and progress, and give specific praise. At home, a visible checklist and a predictable homework routine may help. Ask your child which parts of the school day feel difficult and what helps them.



When to seek advice

These signs alone do not confirm ADHD. If difficulties persist and affect daily life, speak to the SEND team or your GP. Diagnosis requires specialist assessment. Support should continue while a child is waiting.

Let's work together

Share your concerns and your child's experiences with us so we can discuss helpful support.

SEND@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

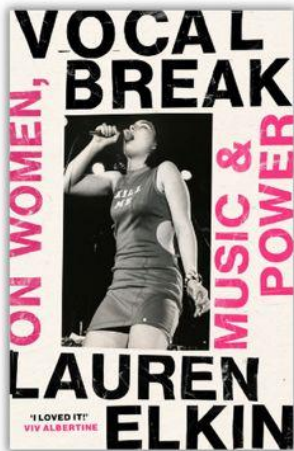
Contact: slongdon@aldercarhighschool.co.uk
/ afoster@aldercarhighschool.co.uk

Aldercar High School, Daltons Close, Langley Mill, NG16 4HL

Tel: 01773 712477 Ext. 0040



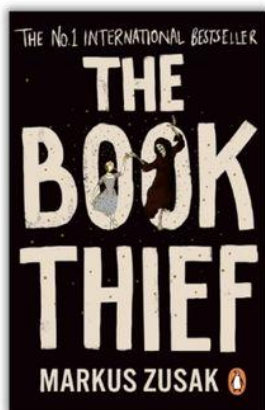
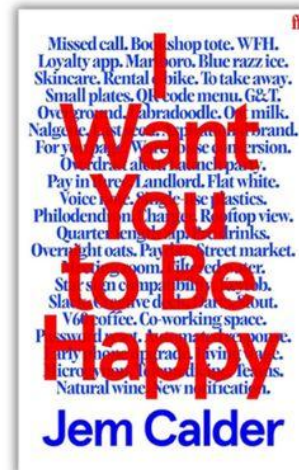
Vocal Break: On Women, Music & Power by Lauren Elkin



A powerful book about the female voice and the ways in which it has been subjugated by men and capitalism. Lots of stuff about Tori Amos and musicals which I wasn't very interested in. It's not a boring book.

I Want You to Be Happy by Jem Calder

What's wrong with modern literature?
This. Blank sentences, a book about
nothing. So boring.



The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

It's great. Devastating and clever.
And weirdly funny.

BOOK REVIEWS

MR COWDREY

19th October 2026





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

THURSDAYS 3-4PM IN THE LIBRARY

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

COMMUNITY FREE BINGO NIGHT

FANCY DRESS • BINGO • FUN & PRIZES!



Friday
30th October



7:00pm –
9:00pm



The Potteries Community Hub –
Acorn Centre,
Station Road, Langley Mill, NG16 4AF

Come along in your spookiest, funniest
or most fabulous fancy dress!

FANCY DRESS
ENCOURAGED



BINGO &
PRIZES



HALLOWEEN
FUN & GAMES



BRING YOUR
FRIENDS AND JOIN US
FOR A FANG-TASTIC
EVENING!

DON'T MISS IT!

Friday 30th October | 7pm – 9pm

The Potteries Community Hub – Acorn Centre
Station Road, Langley Mill, NG16 4AF



HIRE US
WITH SCHOOLS PLUS





BOOK SPACE AT OUR SCHOOL

Whatever you're planning, we've got a space for you! Hire our school facilities with Schools Plus all year round, during evenings, weekends and school holidays. With spaces available for dance, football, worship, events, tuition, celebrations, sports, fitness and so much more. Get in touch to book, on the details below.



Scan to be taken directly to our online booking platform, Enni!


0345 222 2323


www.schoolsplus.co.uk

Diary Dates

Tuesday 20th October – Post-16 Inclusion Open Evening

Friday 23rd October – Inset Day

Monday 25th-29th October – Half Term Week

Thursday 5th and Friday 6th November – London Trip

Monday 9th – Friday 20th November – Year 11 Mock Exams

Wednesday 11th November – Remembrance Day/Dress to Impress

Wednesday 2nd December – Year 10 Parents Evening 16:00-19:00

Friday 4th December – Inset Day

Monday 7th - Friday 11th December – Rewards Assemblies

Thursday 10th December – Christmas Talent Show

Wednesday 16th December – Activity Day 1

Friday 18th December - Last Day of Term

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

