



Weekly Newsletter 2nd October 2026

Dear members of the Aldercar High School community

As we move further into the autumn term, I continue to be impressed by the positive attitudes, resilience, and determination shown by our students. Every day, we see countless examples of young people demonstrating our core values of being Ready, Respectful and Responsible, both in lessons and around the school community. These seemingly small actions make a significant difference to the learning environment and help create a school where everyone feels safe, valued, and able to succeed. I would like to thank our staff, students, and families for the part they each play in maintaining these high standards.

Our rewards strategy continues to go from strength to strength, with more students recognising that consistent effort, excellent attendance, positive conduct, and active participation all contribute to success. We are committed to recognising students who make the right choices every day, and I encourage parents and carers to continue discussing with their child how they are earning and spending their reward points.

Goodbye Mr Olorundare -aka Mr Shine - Although this week has been so positive, we are sad to say goodbye to Mr Olorundare. Mr Olorundare has been with us for two years and he has been the epitome of unconditional positive regard for our young people. He has made a huge difference to our community, and we wish him all of the best for his next steps.



Curriculum Capture: Science

This week has been full of exciting practical work across the Science Department.

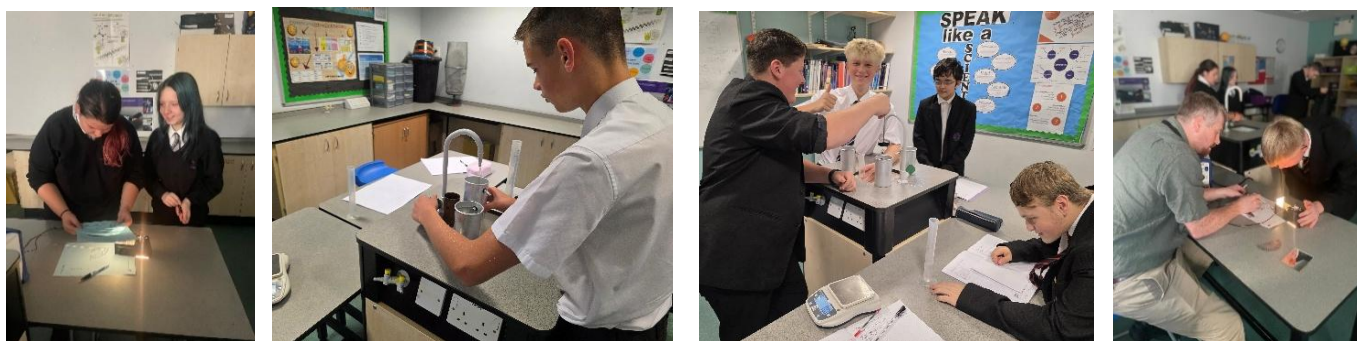
In Year 7, students have been learning about cell structure by creating model cells from playdough, helping them to identify and understand the functions of different cell parts.



Year 8 students have been carrying out a variety of investigations. Mrs Newton's class explored how enzymes break down starch into sugar, Miss Philbin's class investigated the displacement reactions of halogens, and Miss Gensler's class measured reaction times and considered factors that affect human responses.



Our GCSE students have also been busy completing required practical activities in Physics. Year 10 students measured density using Eureka cans and displacement methods, while Year 11 students used ray boxes to investigate the reflection and refraction of light.



It has been fantastic to see students developing their practical skills and scientific understanding through these engaging hands-on activities.

Post-16 Inclusion Science

Our Post-16 Inclusion students have been discovering non-Newtonian fluids using water and corn flour.



Further Maths: Rising to the Challenge

It was fantastic to see **more than 30 Year 11 students** give up their lunchtime recently to come along and try their hand at **Further Maths**. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and willingness to challenge themselves were brilliant to see.

During the session, students explored **Pascal's Triangle** and discovered how it can be used to help complete **Binomial Expansions**. This is mathematics that goes beyond the usual GCSE curriculum, but our students approached the challenge with real confidence and determination. It was particularly impressive to see how quickly they began to spot patterns, make connections and successfully apply their new knowledge to increasingly challenging problems.

Further Maths is an additional class that we offer to some of our **most talented mathematicians in Year 11**, giving them an opportunity to experience mathematics beyond their normal lessons. The course is designed to **stretch and challenge** students, introduce them to new ideas and develop the problem-solving skills that will be so important if they choose to continue studying Mathematics in the future. We offered this to our year 11 students last year and this is a quote from Klaudia who thrived in Further Maths last year.

"Taking Further Maths at GCSE helped develop my understanding of mathematical concepts and improved my problem-solving skills which contributed to me getting an 8 in my Maths GCSE. Although it challenged me a lot, further maths made me think more logically and made me more confident in solving unfamiliar problems I would usually be stuck on. These skills are currently helping me at the beginning of A-level Maths as I feel more confident solving difficult questions, and I have a much stronger foundation to build on."

The Further Maths qualification provides an excellent bridge between **GCSE and A-Level Mathematics**, allowing students to encounter more advanced mathematical concepts and preparing them for the greater depth and challenge of post-16 study and beyond.

Most importantly, it was wonderful to see so many students choosing to spend their own lunchtime doing some extra mathematics. **Over 30 students voluntarily tackling Binomial Expansions is certainly something worth celebrating!**

A huge well done to everyone who attended. We are really looking forward to seeing how you progress over the coming months and where your mathematical journey might take you next

Year 10 BTEC Sport

Our Year 10 BTEC Sport students kicked off session 1 of the leadership workshops on Monday with Amber Valley School Sports Partnership.

This will help them for future tasks on the course as well as improving valuable life skills. The workshop was an introduction into problem solving ideas and how different tasks can be adapted.

The next session will be based around officiating.

The image shows handwritten mathematical work on grid paper. At the top, 'further maths' is written in pink. Below it, three parts of binomial expansions are shown:

a) $(a+b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$

b) $(a+b)^3 = a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3$

c) $(a+b)^4 = a^4 + 4a^3b + 6a^2b^2 + 4ab^3 + b^4$

Below these, a Pascal's Triangle is shown for $(2a+b)^3$:

1	3	3	1
$(2a)^3$	$(2a)^2$	$(2a)$	b^3
$8a^3$	$12a^2b$	$6ab^2$	b^3



Year 11 Geography Fieldtrip

On Thursday, Year 11 GCSE Geographers went to the Holderness Coast in Yorkshire to complete their compulsory physical fieldwork. We started at Flamborough Head where we saw chalk cliffs eroded into caves, stacks and stumps. We even saw some mum and baby seals sunbathing on the beach!

We then headed south to Hornsea to complete our fieldwork data collection tasks, measuring sediment accumulation either side of the groynes (wooden sea defences). This showed that the process of longshore drift was operating north to south along the coastline as the north side beach was mostly higher than the south side.

After walking along the beach and observing other coastal management techniques up close, we headed to the seafront fish and chip shop for a well deserved lunch.

Students worked really well as a team to complete their work and will benefit from their first hand experience in preparation for their Paper 1 and Paper 3 GCSE examinations next summer.

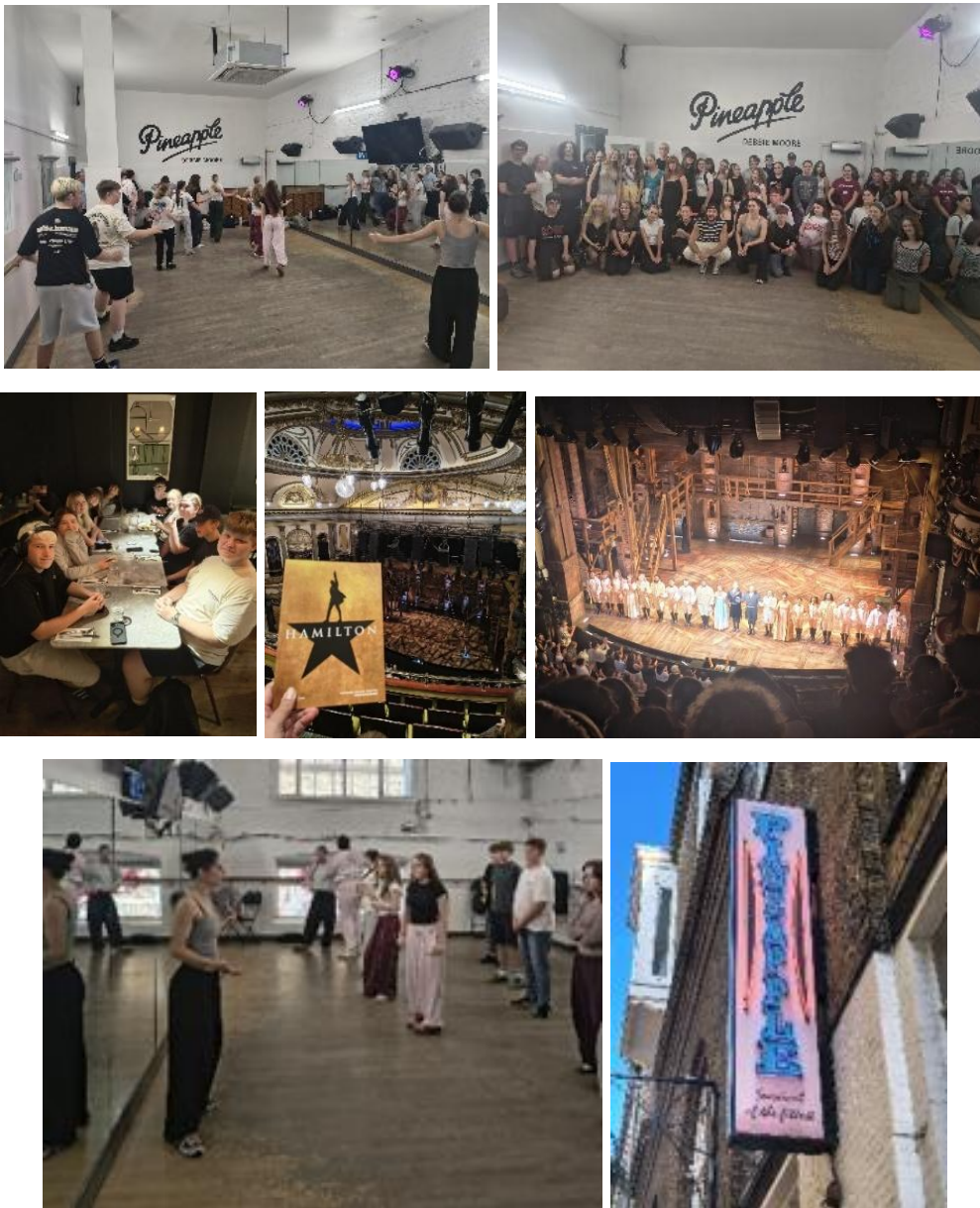


London – introduction to Pineapple dance studio

On Thursday, we took some of our Aldercar students to London for a fun-filled day, alongside students from Buxton and Anthony Gell schools. The day was organised by Embark, and we were very lucky to have the opportunity to be part of such a fantastic experience. Our day began with a workshop at the famous Pineapple Dance Studios, led by a former cast member of Hamilton. We had great fun learning some of the choreography and, much to our surprise, discovered some dance moves we didn't know we had!

After working up an appetite, we headed to Pizza Express for lunch. There was plenty to choose from, including dough balls, lasagne, pizza, Caesar salad, sorbet, ice cream and chocolate fudge cake. Needless to say, nobody went hungry.

We then walked to the Victoria Palace Theatre, where the highlight of the day awaited us – Hamilton. And wow... what a show! It was absolutely amazing. There were tears, laughter, applause, cheers and more than a few "whoops!" It was a truly memorable experience and one that our students will hopefully remember for a long time.



It was a very long and busy day, but our students did us incredibly proud. Their impeccable behaviour, enthusiasm and positive attitude throughout the day were fantastic to see.

A huge thank you to Embark for organising such a wonderful opportunity, and to our students for making the day so special.

Attendance Update: Let's Bounce Back Together Next Week

This week, we have seen a slight drop in attendance across the school, largely due to the number of students who have been unwell. While health must always come first, we want to thank parents and carers for keeping us informed and for supporting their children throughout periods of illness.

As we move into next week, we would like to encourage all students to make a fresh start and aim for excellent attendance. Every lesson counts, and attending school regularly helps students stay on track with their learning, build positive relationships with their peers and teachers, and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

At Aldercar High School, we are proud of the resilience and commitment shown by our students. Our values of being Ready, Respectful and Responsible are reflected in strong attendance habits. Being Ready means arriving at school each day prepared to learn, being Respectful means valuing the education opportunities provided, and being Responsible means making attendance a priority whenever possible.

We know that illness can sometimes be unavoidable, but when students are well enough to attend, every school day makes a difference. A strong week of attendance from everyone can have a significant impact on learning and achievement.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming students back next week and seeing attendance levels return to the excellent standards we know our school community can achieve.

Let's work together to make next week our best attendance week yet!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone involved in organising and supporting the Macmillan Coffee Morning, which raised over £200.



MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

THE R POINTS REWARD SHOP!

We're excited to be launching our new R Points Reward Shop, giving students the chance to turn their hard work and positive choices into rewards.

Students will earn R Points throughout the week by being Ready, Respectful and Responsible, and from launch, the Reward Shop will be open every Friday for students to spend their points.

It's our way of recognising the effort, positive behaviour and great choices our students make every day.

Keep earning. Keep making positive choices. Your R Points could earn you a reward!



 Aldercar High School
Ready. Respectful. Responsible.

COMING SOON...

REWARD SHOP

SPEND YOUR R POINTS!

 **EARN R POINTS
FOR POSITIVE
CHOICES**

 **VISIT THE REWARD SHOP
EVERY FRIDAY**

 **SPEND YOUR POINTS
ON A RANGE OF
REWARDS!**

 **KEEP EARNING...
REWARD YOUR EFFORTS!**

EVERY CHILD | EVERY LESSON | EVERY DAY

Celebrating BSL Level 1 Success

Staff in Deaf Base are incredibly proud of Robert, Emily, Codey and Willow, who all successfully passed their BSL Level 1 exams before the summer holidays!



Achieving a BSL qualification takes lots of practice, dedication and commitment. Over the course of their learning, they have worked hard to develop their signing skills, build their confidence and put their knowledge into practice.

All four should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved. It has been fantastic to see their progress, enthusiasm and commitment to learning BSL.



A huge well done to Robert, Emily, Codey and Willow — what a fantastic achievement! 🌟👏

Meet the Tutor Evening – Year 7



**Aldercar
HIGH SCHOOL**

MEET THE TUTOR EVENING

Year 7 Parents & Carers

Join us for an opportunity to meet your child's tutor, discuss how they have settled into secondary school, and learn more about their progress and wellbeing.



Thursday 15 October



4:00pm – 7:00pm



Aldercar High School

This is a valuable opportunity to build positive relationships with your child's tutor and support their success throughout Year 7.



Appointments must be booked online in advance.

To book your appointments please visit:

aldercar.schoolcloud.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you.

**EMBARK
FEDERATION**



Dear Parent/Carer

Introducing VIBE: support to stop youth smoking or vaping

We are pleased to let you know that your young person's secondary school is taking part in Vibe, a new pilot service supporting young people aged 12-18 who would like help to stop smoking or vaping. The service aims to reduce nicotine dependence and support young people to make healthy choices for their future.

Nicotine can be highly addictive, and many young people find it difficult to stop once smoking or vaping becomes part of their routine. Vibe offers friendly, confidential support to help young people make positive changes to their health and wellbeing.

Vapes can help some adult smokers quit smoking, but they are not recommended for children, young people or non-smokers. NHS advice is clear: if you don't smoke, don't vape.

Vibe is commissioned by Derbyshire County Council and delivered by Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust. This pilot service is being introduced in ten schools initially, with plans to expand across Derbyshire.

Young people can self-refer to the service. Parents/carers, school staff or other professionals can also make a referral with the young person's agreement. Further information about how to access the service and make a referral will be shared shortly by the school and Vibe team.

Support is confidential and delivered in line with NHS confidentiality guidance. Information would only be shared without consent where there are concerns about a young person's safety or wellbeing.

What support will young people receive?

Support is delivered by registered nurses with experience in children's community public health. They will provide assessment, advice, education and practical strategies to help young people stop smoking or vaping and manage nicotine cravings.

Some young people may be offered Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) where this is considered appropriate following assessment by a registered nurse. Any NRT provided will be offered in line with national guidance, local protocols and the young person's informed consent. We encourage young people to involve their parents or carers in decisions about their care and support wherever possible.

How NRT can help

NRT provides a small, controlled amount of nicotine without tobacco smoke or vape aerosol.

It can:

- Reduce cravings and withdrawal symptoms.
- Help manage feelings such as restlessness, low mood or frustration.
- Support a gradual reduction in nicotine dependence.

Vibe will not provide inhalator-type NRT products.

Types of NRT

A range of products may be available, including:

- Nicotine patches
- Nicotine gum
- Lozenges
- Micro tabs
- Mouth spray

A combination of products may be recommended to help manage cravings throughout the day.

Support for parents and carers

If you have any questions about the Vibe service and cannot find the information you need through your school, please contact the Vibe team at **dchst.vibe@nhs.net**

We are happy to answer any questions and provide further information about the support available.

If you are a parent or carer who would like support to stop smoking, help is available through Live Life Better Derbyshire and NHS stop smoking services.

- www.livelifebetterderbyshire.org.uk/services/stopping-smoking/stopping-smoking.aspx
- Freephone: 0800 085 2299
- www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/

Thank you for your support in helping young people access the support they need. We look forward to working in partnership with families and schools to support healthier futures for Derbyshire's young people.

Kind regards,

Bek Byron

Vibe Service Lead

Derbyshire Community Health Service NHS Foundation Trust

This service is funded by Derbyshire County Council and provided by Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust.



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



***Solo Leveling* by Chugong & Dubu**

5th October 2026

I wanted to share why Solo leveling is one of my favorite series.

The thing I like most is the journey of Sung Jin-Woo. At the beginning, he is known as the weakest hunter alive. People look down on him, mock him, and believe he has no chance of becoming anything special. Despite this, he keeps going because he wants to support the people he cares about his mom and sister.

What makes the story so enjoyable is watching Jin-Woo grow stronger step by step. Unlike many characters who start out powerful, he has to earn every bit of his progress. Each battle, quest, and challenge pushes him further, and it is incredibly satisfying to see him overcome obstacles that once seemed impossible.

BOOK REVIEW

MR SHINE



I also love how his confidence develops throughout the series. As his strength increases, he becomes more capable, strategic, and respected. The transformation from the weakest hunter to the strongest hunter in existence is one of the most exciting character arcs I have ever seen.

Another great aspect is that Jin-Woo never feels unbeatable right away. There is always a new challenge, stronger enemies, and greater risks. This keeps the story engaging because you are constantly wondering how he will continue to improve and what abilities he will unlock next.

The action scenes are fantastic, especially when Jin-Woo uses his Shadow Army. Watching him command powerful shadow soldiers and turn former enemies into allies creates some of the most memorable moments in the series. His battles feel epic and truly show how far he has come from the frightened and powerless hunter he once was. My favorite battle is the one against Beru.

I also enjoy the world-building. The gates, dungeons, hunters, and ranking system make the world feel interesting and give a clear sense of progression. Every new dungeon or enemy adds excitement and mystery to the story.

Thanks Mr Shine, all the best for your new job!

**Grab Solo Leveling in the library—
while you can!**



GRAPHIC NOVELS - COMICS - MANGA - ANIME - GRAPHIC NOVELS - COMICS - MANGA - ANIME - GRAPHIC NOVELS - COMICS -



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

MANGA - ANIME - GRAPHIC NOVELS - COMICS - MANGA - ANIME - GRAPHIC NOVELS - COMICS - MANGA - ANIME - GRAPHIC NOVELS - COMICS -



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

Diary Dates

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

Tuesday 20th October – Post-16 Inclusion Open Evening

Friday 23rd October – Inset day

Monday 25th-29th October – Half term week

Thursday 6th and Friday 6th November – Year 8 trip to London (Year 7 reschedule)

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

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

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www.aldercarhigh.co.uk

