



Weekly Newsletter 9th 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 and commitment shown by our students each day. Whether in lessons, around the school site, or through their participation in enrichment activities, our young people are demonstrating what it means to be Ready, Respectful and Responsible. Success in school is often built on small habits repeated consistently, and it is encouraging to see so many students taking pride in their learning, supporting one another, and striving to be the very best version of themselves.

Thank you for the ongoing support you provide at home. The strong partnership between school and families is one of our greatest strengths, and together we can help every young person develop the confidence, character and resilience needed for success both in school and beyond. Please enjoy our weekly newsletter.

Newsletter quote of the week:

"The future depends on what we do today." – Mahatma Gandhi

Curriculum Captures: Food Technology – Learning, Creating &Cooking

It has been a fantastic few weeks in Food Technology, with our students getting stuck into practical cooking and developing a range of valuable kitchen skills. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they become more independent in the kitchen.

Year 7 – Building the Basics

Our Year 7 students have been busy developing their essential food preparation skills. They have recently learned how to boil an egg, prepare a tasty dip, and practise their knife skills. Students have been working on using knives safely and accurately, while becoming more confident with different cutting techniques.

Year 8 – Developing Their Cooking Skills

Year 8 have been developing their understanding of different cooking methods and techniques. They have prepared homemade chips, pre-boiling the potatoes before finishing them in the oven to achieve a delicious result. They have also made bolognese, developing their skills in preparing ingredients and combining flavours. Next up, they will be making a stir-fry, where they will put their knife skills, timing and cooking techniques to the test!



Year 9 – Creativity & Presentation

Year 9 have been showing that cooking is not just about how food tastes, but also how it looks! They have been developing their presentation skills by creating an impressive apple showpiece, demonstrating creativity, care and attention to detail. They have also been busy cooking a variety of dishes, including risotto, macaroni, vegetables and cheese, giving them opportunities to experiment with ingredients, textures and flavours.



Alternative Provision students

These students have been showing off their skills by making a cheese omelette which most of them tried and ate for their lunch. Chocolate chip cookies were a little more difficult due to weighing out ingredients and some students were a little heavy handed with the mixing, everyone still got cookies.

It is fantastic to see our students becoming more confident, creative and independent in the kitchen. The skills they are developing in Food Technology are not only useful for their lessons but are skills they can take home and use for life.



A huge well done to our budding Chefs this week.

Malaki H
Lily H
Bella L
Tia L
Alan D
Emeke M
Scarlett C



Year 7 Science

Year 7 students in Miss Gensler's class have been putting their science investigation skills into practice by building their own marshmallow catapults. Students worked together to plan their investigation to see which size marshmallow would travel the furthest distance. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm, creativity, and teamwork.



Celebrating Ada Lovelace Day

On **Tuesday 13th October**, we will be celebrating **Ada Lovelace Day** across school, recognising the achievements of one of the most remarkable mathematicians in British history.

To mark the occasion, students will be taking part in a **Mathematical Treasure Hunt** throughout the school day. Keep your eyes open around school because there will be **numbers to find, clues to uncover and mathematical problems to solve**. You might need to put your mathematical thinking to the test, work out the significance of a number or solve a problem before moving on to the next challenge. Whether you love maths already or simply enjoy solving a puzzle, everyone can get involved.



Who was Ada Lovelace?

Ada Lovelace (1815–1852) was an English mathematician who worked with Charles Babbage on his proposed **Analytical Engine**, a mechanical machine that contained many of the ideas behind modern computers. Ada recognised that such a machine could potentially do far more than simply perform calculations. Her notes included an algorithm designed to be carried out by the Analytical Engine, which has led to her being widely regarded as one of the world's **first computer programmers**. [\[en.wikipedia.org\]](https://en.wikipedia.org), [\[nottingham.ac.uk\]](https://nottingham.ac.uk)

Ada also has an important connection with our local area. She was the daughter of the famous poet Lord Byron, whose ancestral home was **Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire**, and both father and daughter are buried in the Byron family vault at **St Mary Magdalene Church in Hucknall**. In fact, Ada specifically requested to be buried alongside her father there. This means that somebody whose ideas helped shape the future of computing has a fascinating connection to the area right on our doorstep. [\[Ada Lovelace...h Hucknall\]](https://www.ada-lovelace-hucknall.co.uk), [\[visit-nott...hire.co.uk\]](https://visit-nott...hire.co.uk)

So, on 13th October, get ready to think like Ada! Look out for the numbers hidden around school, tackle the mathematical challenges and see if you can complete our **Ada Lovelace Mathematical Treasure Hunt**. Who knows, perhaps the next great mathematical thinker or computer scientist is already walking our corridors

Leadership Workshop

A huge well done to Year 10 BTEC Sport student Lois B, who has continued to demonstrate excellent leadership skills following last week's leadership workshop. Lois volunteered her time to support Amber Valley Sports Partnership at a Key Stage 1 athletics event held at Heanor Leisure Centre on Tuesday, involving pupils from local primary schools.

Lois took on a range of responsibilities throughout the event, helping to organise activities, officiate competitions and support younger participants. Liam from Amber Valley Sport contacted the school to praise Lois for her enthusiasm, professionalism and positive attitude, highlighting the valuable contribution she made to the success of the event.

We are incredibly proud of Lois for embracing this fantastic opportunity to develop her leadership skills within the local community.



Black History Month Competition

October sees the annual celebration of Black History month. A chance to reflect on the long and varied contribution to British culture and society by people from the black community.

As part of this all Aldercar High School students took part in a national assembly organised by the Sanctuary Foundation. In addition, students began each lesson with a starter task based on celebrating people and events from black history.

Finally students have been invited to take part in a competition, the details can be seen in the poster below. We look forward to seeing loads of amazing entries!



BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMPETITION

WRITE • RESEARCH • CELEBRATE

Inspire through history!

THE CHALLENGE

Write a short biography (around 300–500 words) of a famous Black Briton.

You can choose someone from any field, including:

- Science and medicine
- Politics and law
- Sport
- Business and innovation
- Arts and culture
- And many more...

Be creative, do your research and tell their story!

PRIZES!

The winner in each year group will receive a special prize!

EXTRA R POINTS!

All entries will receive extra R points.

DEADLINE

Submit your entry by the end of term!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

LEARN • REFLECT • BE INSPIRED

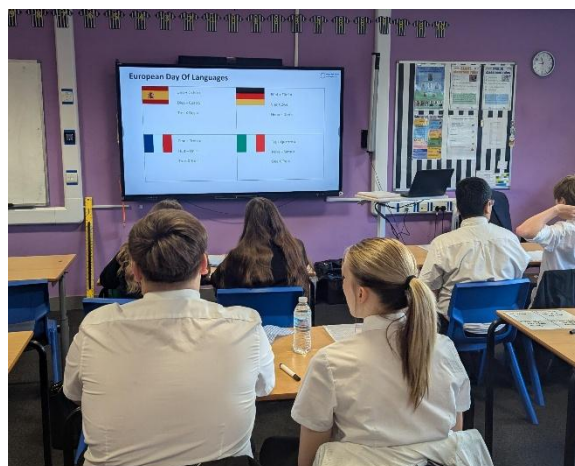
European Day of Languages

Last week we celebrated the European Day of Languages. We did lots of activities during form time and also during lessons. In Maths, students learnt how to do some calculations in different languages.

We learnt about how many people speak other languages and how important it is to learn a new language. Languages open the door to so many opportunities.

Students won prizes when they found hidden rocks around the school which had different coloured flags on, we discovered Disney songs from lots of other countries, and we enjoyed dancing to Spanish music at lunch.

Thank you to everyone that took part.





Aldercar High School

95%

OUR STANDARD

It's fantastic to see our students demonstrating our values of



READY



RESPECTFUL



RESPONSIBLE

Around school. These values help us create a positive and supportive community for everyone.



95% IS OUR STANDARD
for students to be able to
ACCESS TRIPS AND REWARDS.

Keep working hard and earning those R Points!

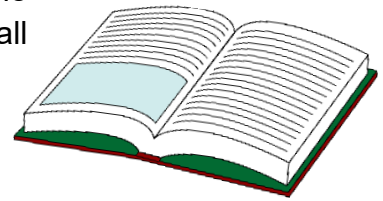
READY

RESPECTFUL

RESPONSIBLE

Year 10 Parents Evening

We are pleased to invite parents and carers to our Year 10 Parents' Evening on **Wednesday 2nd December, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm**. This will provide an important opportunity to meet with your child's teachers to discuss their progress, attainment and engagement, as well as any areas where additional support or guidance may be required. We value the partnership between home and school and strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend this important evening. Further information on how to book appointments on School cloud will be available soon. We look forward to seeing you all there.



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.



Meet our school Governors

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce our current Governing Board and thank all of our governors for the time, commitment and expertise they give to supporting our school.

Our governors play an important role in the life of the school, working alongside the Headteacher and senior leadership team to provide support and challenge, help shape the strategic direction of the school and ensure we continue to provide the best possible education and opportunities for our students.

Our current governors are:

- **Chair of Governors:** Claire Keyte
- **Headteacher:** Phil Smith
- **Staff Governor:** Katie-Belle Smith
- **Parent Governor:** David Mounfield
- **Parent Governor:** Claire Lowe
- **Co-opted Governor:** Nick Hinckley
- **Vice-Chair of Governors:** Stacie Bingley

We are extremely grateful to all our governors for their continued commitment to our school community and for the valuable contribution they make to the ongoing development and success of the school.

Thank you to our Governing Board for everything they do to support our students, staff and wider school community.

Introducing MINT Book Look Grades

This year we will be encouraging students to push themselves to improve the quality and quantity of their class work. They will also be rewarded for taking care with their presentation and ensuring that they improve their work through self and peer assessment activities. Teachers will assign them M, I, N or T grades and any Neat or Terrific grades will result in extra R points every term. Parents and Carers will be informed of these grades and have an opportunity to see their child's work at Parents' Evenings to further celebrate their efforts. We are really excited to see students **respect** their work and be more **responsible** for the quality of their class book work. This will make them extra **ready** for any upcoming assessments and examinations where books can make a huge difference to outcomes by supporting revision.



Aldercar High School
BOOK LOOK GRADES
Ready. Respectful. Responsible.

 **READY**
 **RESPECTFUL**
 **RESPONSIBLE**



High quality work shows you are **Ready** to learn, **Respectful** of your learning and **Responsible** for your success.

M MESSY Your work does not show your best effort. ✗ Your work does not show your best effort in completing tasks or corrections. ✗ Presentation of work is disorganised and will be difficult to use for revision.  You need to try harder. Put more effort into your work and presentation so it helps you learn.	I INCONSISTENT Your work can be good but it isn't always. ? Your work can be good but there are some lessons that do not show the effort needed to make your book a useful tool for revision and show progress. ? Sometimes your work is good, but other times it is not. Try to be more consistent.  Be more consistent. Show effort in every lesson to make progress.	N NEAT Your work is a good effort. ✓ Your work is of a good effort. Corrections are made which will allow you to make progress and this book will help you revise for assessments. ✓ You usually put in good effort. Your work helps you make progress and revise.  Keep it up. Continue to work hard and make progress.	T TERRIFIC Your work is exemplary. ✓ Your work effort is exemplary with key terms highlighted. Corrections are always made which will boost your progress and your book will allow you to revise successfully for assessments. ✓ You try your best all the time. Your work is clear and helps you learn and revise well.  Outstanding work. Keep being your best.
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 **READY**

 **RESPECTFUL**

 **RESPONSIBLE**

 **EVERY CHILD KNOWN**

 **EVERY LESSON COUNTS**

 **EVERY FUTURE UNLOCKED**



Understanding dyslexia

Recognising differences. Supporting every learner.



Every young person is different

Dyslexia is often linked with reading and spelling, but difficulties can also involve memory, organisation and coordination. Each young person has their own strengths and challenges. A student may explain an idea confidently yet find it much harder to put that understanding into writing.



Writing & homework

Written work may not reflect what a student knows. Handwriting can be difficult to read or slow, while spelling, punctuation and grammar may be inconsistent. Students may lose the thread, write very little, struggle to take notes or find it hard to organise and finish homework.



Reading & meaning

Reading aloud may be hesitant. A student might miss, repeat or add words, lose their place or struggle with familiar words. Others read fluently but find the main idea hard to grasp. Using dictionaries or reference books can also be challenging.



Numbers & maths

Students may struggle with times tables, number facts, sequences or formulae. They might confuse signs, misread worded questions or find quick mental arithmetic difficult. Strong understanding of complex maths can sit alongside a need for a calculator for basic calculations.



Memory & processing

Some students confuse left and right, find languages difficult or struggle to find the word for an object. Complicated questions and several instructions at once can be hard to process, even when each task is manageable on its own.



Helping students thrive

Understanding needs. Making learning accessible.



Effort & wellbeing

A young person may seem forgetful or disorganised, misplace equipment or miss homework and appointments. They may lose focus or be in the wrong place at the wrong time. The extra concentration needed for everyday schoolwork can leave them very tired.



Recognising a pattern

A cluster of these signs, alongside areas of strength, may suggest that further investigation would help. The signs alone do not confirm dyslexia. School cannot diagnose dyslexia; a diagnosis requires a full diagnostic assessment.



Clear teaching

Our classrooms aim to be dyslexia friendly. Staff repeat instructions, check understanding and break information into smaller chunks. Time to think and respond helps students process information. Spoken explanations, pictures and practical activities offer different ways to learn.



Practical support

Support can include alternatives to writing, key-point handouts, visual timetables, colour coding and symbols. Staff can adjust text on screens and encourage peer help with recording homework. Computers and assistive technology can help with reading large amounts of text or writing quickly.

Let's work together

Talk with your child about what feels easy and difficult. To discuss concerns or support, contact our SEND team.

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



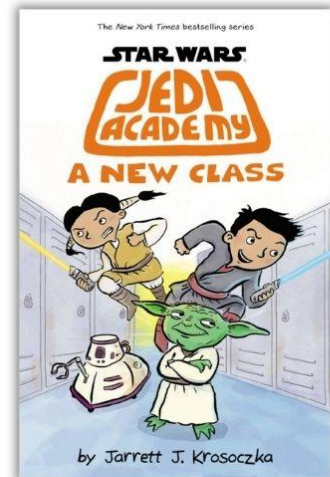
12th Oct 2026

Book Review

The Jedi Academy

by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

This story focusses on a new student, Victor Starspeeder, as he starts at the Coruscant Jedi Academy



What did you like about the book?

He never gave up, and him and his friend's relationship.

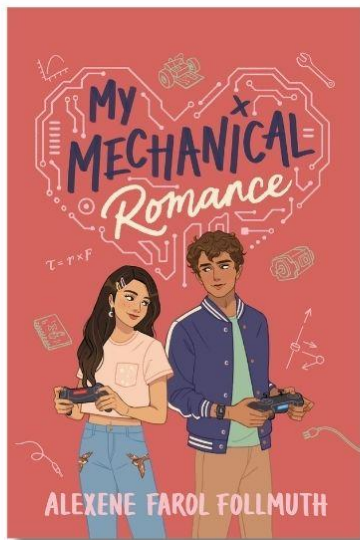
What would you change about it, if you could?

Nothing.



My Mechanical Romance by Alexene Farol Follmuth

A rom-Comic-con with a realistic ending for young adult readers.



What did you like about it?

I like the friendship between Bel and Jamie and the relationship between Bel and Teo.



by Ife B & Semi B

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

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

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.



0345 222 2323



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



0345 222 2323



www.schoolsplus.co.uk

Diary Dates

Tuesday 13th October – Celebrating Ada Lovelace Day
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 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

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