EMBARK FEDERATION

Every Child Known
Every Lesson Counts
Every Future Unlocked

Aldercar High School

Proud Headteacher: Mr P Smith

Weekly Newsletter 13th November 2026

Dear members of the Aldercar High School Community,

Another busy and positive week at Aldercar draws to a close, and once again there has been so much that reflects the school we are. Our values of Ready, Respectful and Responsible are not simply words we display around school, they are the choices we make every day, the way we treat one another and the pride we take in being part of our community.

As Headteacher, I continue to be incredibly proud of the many moments each week when our students demonstrate exactly what we want an Aldercar student to be. Through hard work, resilience, kindness and aspiration, we are not only achieving today but becoming the young people we want to be tomorrow. Our job is to keep raising expectations, opening opportunities and ensuring that every student knows that their future is something worth working hard for.

Rewards and 95% Update

We are continuing to encourage all students to demonstrate our school values of Ready, Respectful and Responsible every day. Our aim is for every student to achieve our 95% positive points standard, recognising those who consistently make positive choices, show respect to others and take responsibility for their learning and behaviour.

Achieving the 95% standard also brings some fantastic rewards! Students who meet the standard will be eligible to take part in our exciting reward activities and special activity days throughout the year.

Our Friday Reward Shop is also proving really popular, giving students the opportunity to spend their hard-earned R Points on a range of treats and rewards during social times. It has been brilliant to see so many students getting involved and enjoying the rewards of making positive choices.

Let's keep up the fantastic work, live our school values and make sure every student has the opportunity to be rewarded for doing the right thing!

Curriculum Captures: Computing

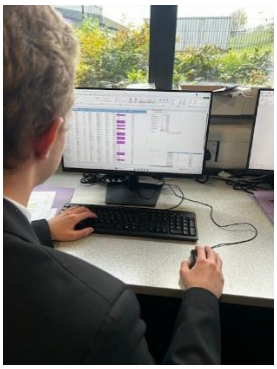
It has been another busy and creative week in Computing, with students across all year groups developing a range of digital skills and knowledge.

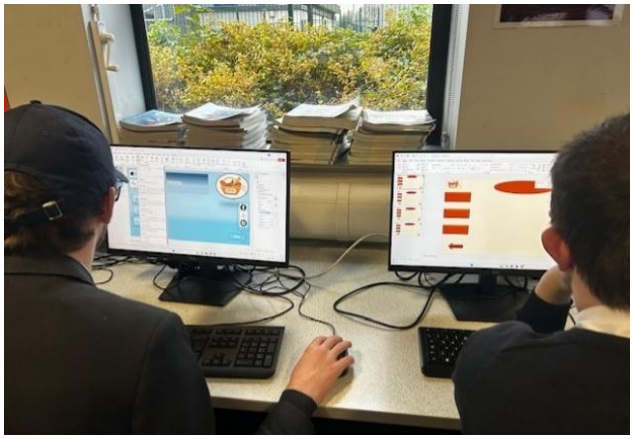
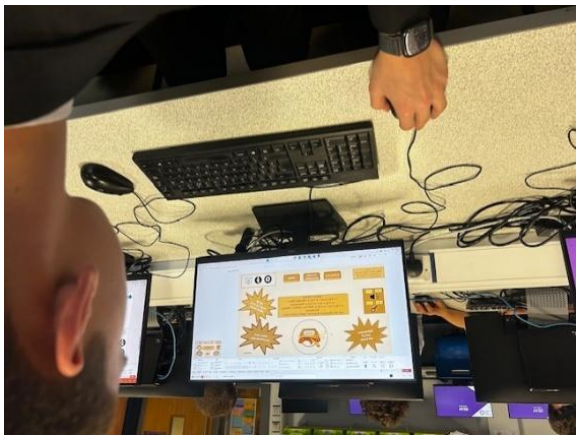
Year 7 have been exploring copyright law and intellectual property, learning how copyright affects the content they use and create online. This has helped them develop a better understanding of responsible and legal digital behaviour.

Year 8 students have been responding to a design brief, showcasing their creativity and technical skills through the production of professional vector graphics. They have learnt how designers use specialist software to create scalable, high-quality digital artwork.

Year 9 have been investigating digital sound editing, learning how audio can be recorded, manipulated and enhanced for a variety of media applications, from podcasts to music production. Meanwhile, **Years 10 and 11** have been working hard on their BTEC coursework assignments. As assessment for this qualification is largely based on practical project work, students are focusing on producing high-quality evidence and demonstrating excellent attention to detail in preparation for submission to the exam board.

We are extremely pleased with the effort, creativity and commitment our students continue to demonstrate in Computing lessons and look forward to celebrating further successes throughout the year.

Curriculum Captures: Business

It has been another fantastic week in Mr Dexter's Business classroom, with our Year 10 and Year 11 students demonstrating that the future of business is in very capable hands!

Our Year 10 budding entrepreneurs have been diving into their introduction to Marketing, with a particular focus on Market Segmentation. From identifying different customer groups to exploring how businesses tailor their products and promotions to meet specific needs, students have been getting to grips with the art of understanding their customers. Working collaboratively in their table groups, they have shown excellent engagement, driven thoughtful discussions and asked some truly

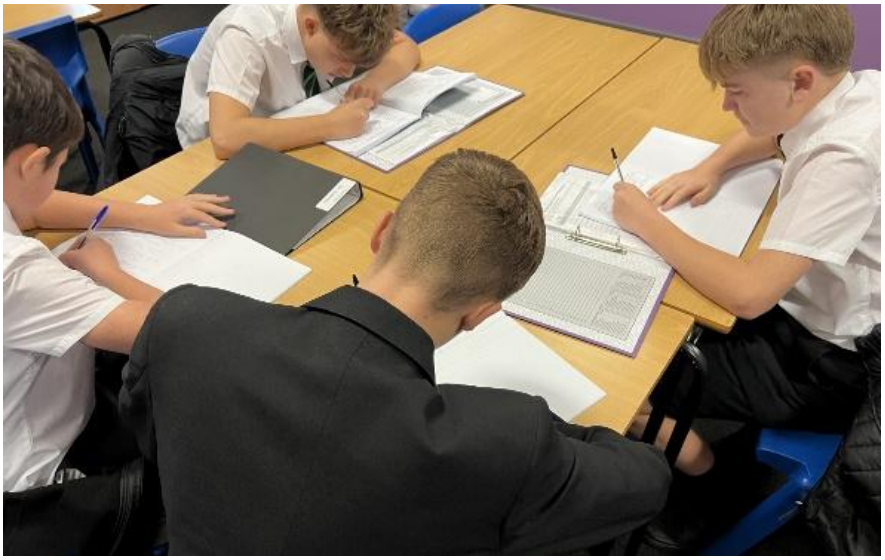
important questions. Their enthusiasm has been a real highlight, proving that when it comes to marketing, knowing your audience is key!

Meanwhile, our Year 11s have been putting their knowledge, resilience and business knowledge to the test in their Paper 2 Mock Exams. They have approached the challenge with determination and given it their all, showcasing the hard work and commitment they have invested in their studies. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the positive attitude they have demonstrated.

Whether they are segmenting markets or tackling exam questions, Mr Dexter's Business students continue to show that success is built on teamwork, ambition and a willingness to think critically. A brilliant week all round – and who knows, we may just have some future business leaders, marketing masterminds and entrepreneurs in the making!







Year 11 Mock Exam Update

Year 11 have made a fantastic start to their mock exams this week. They've had over 12 hours of exams, with some students sitting more than 3 hours today alone.

Next week is our second and final week of mock exams. Here's the timetable again as a reminder.

Well done to our Year 11s, and thank you to everyone for your ongoing support. I hope they all get some time to rest and recharge this weekend, ready for next week.

Mr Blake

		9:15am	1:15pm
W/C 16 Nov 26		YEAR 11	YEAR 11
16-Nov	Monday	Food 1hr 45 mins Geography (Human) 1h	History Paper Paper 2 (Cold war) 55m
17-Nov	Tuesday	Mathematics Paper 2 & 5 1h 30m	Construction (online) 1h 30m
18-Nov	Wednesday	Physics 1h 45m Combined Science 1h 15m	History Paper Paper 3 (USA) 1h 30m
19-Nov	Thursday	Mathematics Paper 3 & 6 1h 30m	Spanish Reading (H) 1hr (F) 45m Listening (H) 45m (F) 35m
20-Nov	Friday	Spanish Speaking 30 mins	Spanish Speaking 30 mins
		Health & Social care PSA	Health & Social care PSA



London Trip

Some of the Year 8 students had the rescheduled trip to London this week. This is what Kody and Korban wrote about it:

We all got on the bus to drive to London. It took four hours. We stopped at services and then WE ARRIVED! We went to Shakespeare's Globe theatre for a tour. We saw students practicing their acting. We did activities in the Globe and then we went for a walk across London seeing the London Eye, Westminster, Buckingham Palace and Elizabeth tower (Big Ben). After that we got 20 minutes of free time: some went to the park and some saw the Remembrance Day practice. After that we walked to Leicester Square to Pizza Hut and it was all you can eat. We went to the theatre to watch Wicked. After the show we went to have a good rest at the hotel. After breakfast we all went to Harry Potter studios and walked around for two hours. Everyone had a blast and some got wands, sweets and drinks. Then we had food; it was good and then it was time to go home 🤭







Duke of Edinburgh Update

On Thursday our year 9's who are taking part in DofE met for the first time. They were welcomed to the scheme and the students discussed what they are going to do for their Physical, Skill and Volunteering section of their Bronze award. Next weeks meeting will see them setting themselves up on the DofE app and starting their Bronze award.

As a school we have Volunteered over 800 hours back to the local community in the last 12 months as part of the DofE award. Our students have been involved in litter picking, helping the elderly, supporting at Sports clubs, helping out at Guides/scouts and volunteering at Shipley ParkRun.

Don't forget that the first Silver Cohort meeting is on Wednesday at 3pm in Mr Prest's classroom.

Mr Prests Puzzle

Last weeks Solution

There are 4 people (Miss Maxwell, Miss Sutcliffe, Mrs Philbin, and Mr Prest) who want to cross a bridge at night.

- Miss Maxwell, Miss Sutcliffe, Mrs Philbin, and Mr Prest take 1, 2, 5, and 8 minutes, respectively, to cross the bridge.
- There is only one torch with them, and the bridge cannot be crossed without the torch.
- There cannot be more than two people on the bridge at any time, and when two people cross the bridge together, they must move at the slower person's pace.

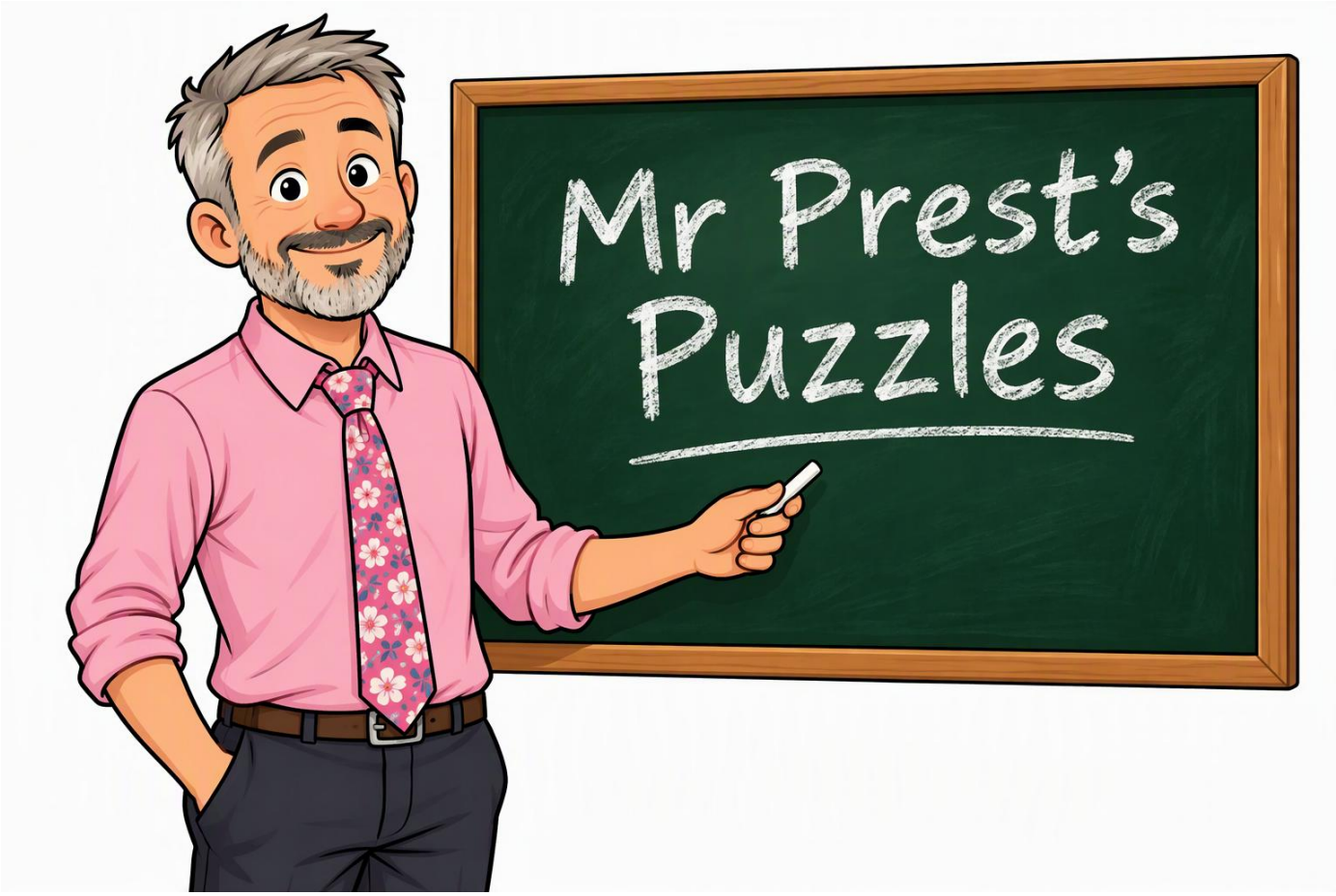
What is the least amount of time they can take to cross the bridge?
The first pair should be Miss Maxwell and Miss Sutcliffe and they will take **2** Minutes.
Then Miss Maxwell brings the torch back this takes **1** minute.
Then Mr Prest and Mrs Philbin cross this will take them **8** minutes.
Then Miss Sutcliffe takes the torch back taking her **2** minutes.
Then Miss Maxwell and Miss Sutciffe cross together and it takes them **2** minutes.
So in total it takes **15** minutes!

Well done to all those who gave it a go and really well done if you got it correct! R Points will be added over the weekend.

This week's Puzzle

Mr Brigg's was out for a walk last night and unfortunately, he fell down a deep well. The well was 30 metres deep. Mr Briggs could manage to climb up 3 metres every hour but then he needed a rest, whilst resting he dropped back down 2 metres. The same thing happened every hour, he climbed 3 metres and dropped back down 2 metres.

How long did it take Mr Brigg's to escape from the well?



DCC Outdoor Engagement Programme

On Tuesday 10th November, a group of our students took part in an exciting canoeing session on the River Erewash as part of the Derbyshire County Council Outdoor Engagement Programme. The day provided a fantastic opportunity for students to develop new skills, build confidence and experience the benefits of learning outside the classroom.

Throughout the session, students learned a range of canoeing techniques, including paddling, manoeuvring and working effectively as a team on the water. They also received important instruction on water safety, helping them to understand how to stay safe in and around waterways while developing their awareness of potential risks.

The group embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and determination, and their positive attitudes were evident throughout the day. Students also enjoyed taking part in a number of friendly competitive games, which encouraged teamwork, communication and resilience. It was wonderful to see everyone supporting one another and celebrating each other's successes. A fantastic day was had by all, and we look forward to seeing our outdoor learners take part in future adventures.


















Continuous Professional Development at Aldercar

At Aldercar High School, we are committed to ensuring that our staff continually develop their knowledge, skills and expertise so that they can provide the highest quality support and education for our students. Over the last few weeks, colleagues have taken part in a range of professional development activities focused on inclusion, wellbeing and student support.

On Friday 23rd October, we held an Embark Federation Inclusion-Focused INSET Day. The day began with an inspiring keynote message from our Trust Leader, Matt Crawford, who reinforced the importance of creating inclusive environments where all students can thrive. Staff then spent time exploring and deepening their understanding of the four broad areas of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND): Communication and Interaction, Cognition and Learning, Social, Emotional and Mental Health, and Sensory and Physical Needs.

Teams also worked collaboratively to review and further strengthen our Universal Offer, ensuring that high-quality inclusive practice remains at the heart of teaching and learning across the school. During the afternoon, staff undertook sensory audits of classrooms and learning environments, evaluating how spaces can be adapted and enhanced to support students' engagement, wellbeing and learning. This work will continue to inform future improvements as we strive to make our school environment as accessible and supportive as possible.

More recently, on Monday 9th November, a group of staff attended specialist training delivered by Derby-based organisation Bridge the Gap focusing on self-harm awareness and support. The session was led by two highly experienced facilitators who provided valuable insight into the reasons why some young people may engage in self-harming behaviours, as well as practical guidance on how school staff can respond appropriately and sensitively.

The training prompted thoughtful discussion and reflection, while also reinforcing key messages around early intervention, understanding, and creating safe spaces for students to seek help. Staff found the session extremely informative and beneficial, leaving with increased confidence in recognising signs of self-harm, responding effectively to concerns, and ensuring that students receive the support they need during difficult times. These opportunities to learn from specialists play a vital role in helping us continue to meet the diverse needs of our students and promote positive wellbeing across our school community.






Remembrance Assembly

This week, students took part in a highly informative and thought-provoking Remembrance Assembly. The assembly provided an opportunity for students to learn more about the significance of Remembrance Day, reflecting on the sacrifices made by members of the armed forces and the impact of conflict on communities both past and present.

The presentation was delivered in a respectful and engaging manner, helping students to understand the importance of remembrance, gratitude and reflection.

Students were encouraged to consider the values of courage, service and resilience, and to recognise the contribution of those who have served their country.

The assembly was exceptionally well received by all year groups. Students listened attentively throughout and demonstrated great maturity and respect when discussing the themes explored. It was pleasing to see such thoughtful engagement across the school, with many students reflecting positively on what they had learned.

We are proud of the respectful attitude shown by our students and a big thanks to Mr Rayner for delivering such a meaningful and memorable assembly.



Deaf and Hearing Impaired Poppies for Remembrance Day

Students from Hearing impaired were proud to display their poppies and plaques that they made last year, for this year's Remembrance service. We hope to add more poppies each year to create a truly impactful display.









Post 16 Inclusion Remembrance

Students in Post-16 Inclusion have been working incredibly hard creating poppies to show in the window for Remembrance Day.



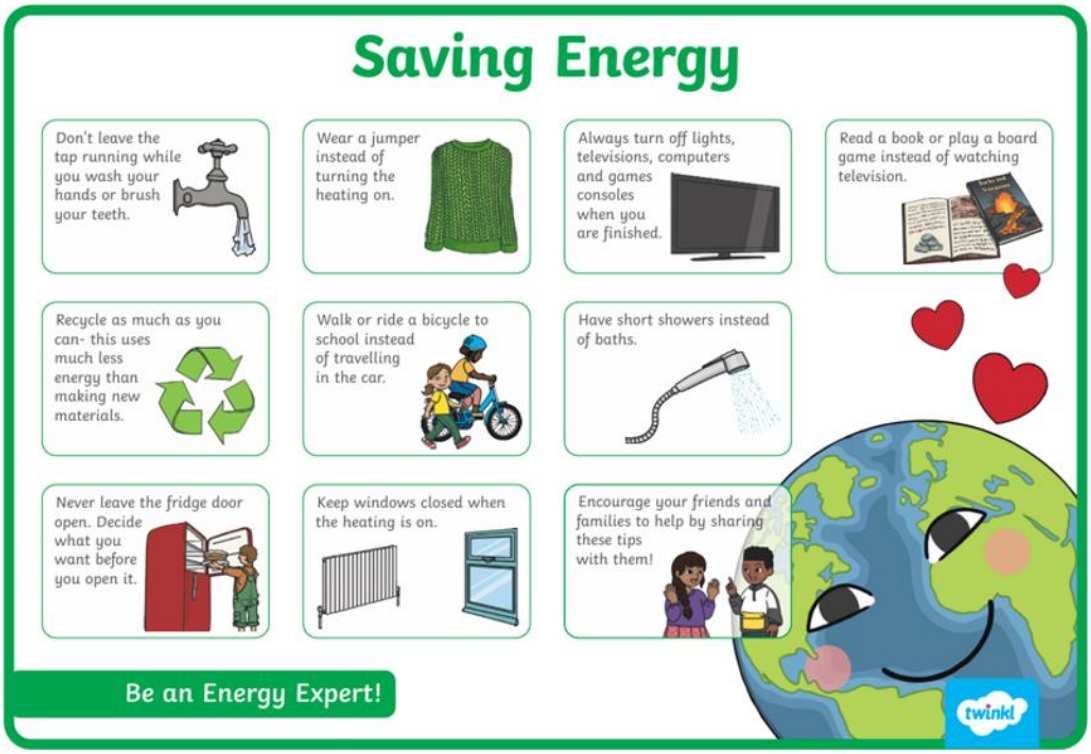
Eco Club Recycling Workshop

Our Eco Club had a visit from HW Martin Waste Limited on Tuesday to explore the interesting world of recycling. Students were amazed by the many different stages of recycling and the products they produce from our waste that can be reused by other companies. HW Martin have challenged the Eco Club to improve our school reuse and recycling systems over the next term and they have been invited to visit the Alfreton Recycling Centre to present their work and have a tour.



Switch off Fortnight 2026 Campaign

Students have been looking at how to save energy in form time this week. The whole school are working towards our Climate Action Plan which aims to reduce Carbon emissions through a variety of school activities such as making more sustainable purchases, switching electrical devices off when not in use and making our heating more efficient. Here are a few ideas to help save energy at home (and save money on your energy bills too!).



Switch off Fortnight

This week we are aiming to save as much energy in school as possible!

Can we all pull together to make a difference?

We will be measuring our usage with Energy Sparks to see - so please help where you can!

13th November 2026

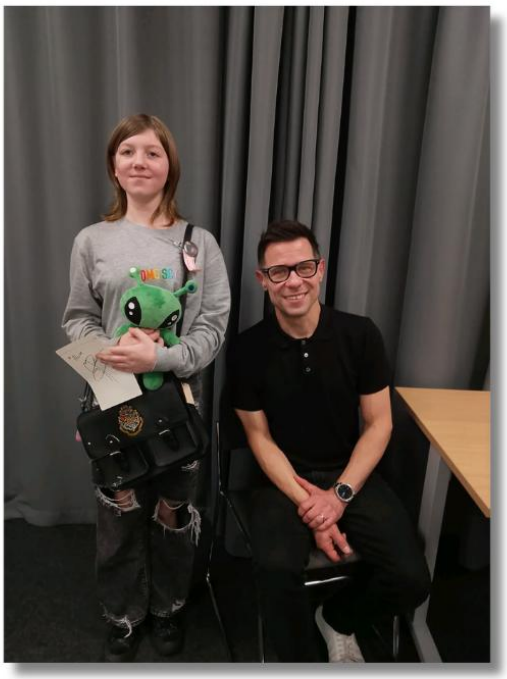
Trip to Beeston

On Saturday 7th November Miss Bell and Miss Lord took twelve of Aldercar's brightest and best to Beeston Library. Report by Ewan H.

"On the trip, we went to Beeston Library to see Guy Bass to tell us what it is like to be an author. I found the talk inspiring. Walker asked 'What advice would you give your younger self?'. Guy Bass said 'Don't be scared.' I learnt it's trickier than it looks to be an author, because you need to re-read and re-read your work.
At the bakery I had a sausage roll. Is that 50 words yet?" (Words: 77)

Students:

- *Maddie W*
- *Aliza P*
- *Finn G*
- *WIlliam M*
- *William T*
- *Walker G*
- *Ava H*
- *Treasure I*
- *Lexi G*
- *Sophie N*
- *Alcide S*
- *Ewan H*





13th November 2026

BOOK REVIEWS

What are you enjoying on Sparx Reader ?

The Invisible Girl and the Impossible Otter
by L. A. Lam

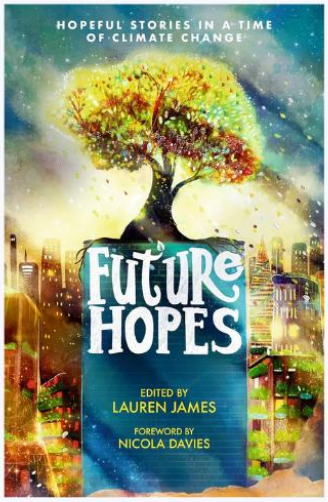
From the collection Future Hopes: *there's a new girl at school and she's stolen Mags' best friend, Ainsley.*

What did you think of the story?

A great book, must read it.



Treasure I, 7D



★★★★☆



★★★★★

Roxy & Jones: The Great Fairytale Cover-Up
by Angela Woolfe

A new spin on the fairytales you think you know in the land of Once Upon a Modern Time

What did you think of the book?

It's so good.

Got an opinion about something you've read? See Miss Bell in the library

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



COMIC CLUB

NEW!

ALL AGES WELCOME

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*

マンガエル

THURSDAYS 3-4PM IN THE LIBRARY

TELL Miss Bell in the library
if you want to come

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

READY | RESPECTFUL | RESPONSIBLE

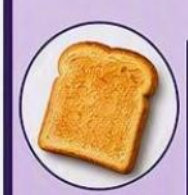
Aldercar HIGH SCHOOL

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

Monday 16th – Friday 20th November – Year 11 Mock Exams
Thursday 3rd 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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Aldercar HIGH SCHOOL

EMBARK FEDERATION

INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP
Because school means more