



Alder Community High School

A Specialist Maths and Computing College

Mottram Old Road, Gee Cross
Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 5NJ

Tel: 0161 368 5132 Fax: 0161 366 6383
E-mail: admin@alder.tameside.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr R O'Regan BSc (Hons) NPQH

14th December 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

Staffing changes

Mrs Stewart is leaving us at the end of term to take up post as Head of department at Our Lady's High School in Manchester. We thank her for the last 10 years' service at Alder and wish her all the very best in the future. We will have a new head of department, Mrs Bates starting after Easter. Also Mrs Bibby will be starting her maternity leave in the new year and we wish her well for her forthcoming event.

Attendance and impact on achievement/progress

Attendance is very high at Alder, above the national average. Students who miss one day a fortnight, equivalent to 90%, significantly reduce their life chances. I am pleased that students are building resilience which will stand them in good stead for the future.

Parent Voice

From January we will be re-launching our parent voice for those who been involved in the Parent Forum – we will soon have a parent voice area on the school website.

We understand the pressure on modern family life and that attending additional meetings after school could prove difficult so the online facility should make parent voice more accessible.

Build a Well in Nepal

Prior to half term Miss Brunt's assembly related to the lack of water or the lack of clean water in some areas of the world. She set the school the task of raising £300.00 in two weeks by everyone donating 41p so as to build a well in Alder's name in Nepal. £500.00 was raised! £300.00 has been given to Water Aid and our well's construction has begun and should be completed within 6 months. The students decided the remaining £200.00 should be spent on water purification tablets and water hygiene kits; 4 kits have been purchased along with 25,000 purification tablets.

The students and staff were very generous and many donated way in excess of 41p; one group of Year 8 girls raised extra money by selling smoothies at the weekend and two students donated their birthday money! Many thanks to all who helped.

Uniform reminder

Please remember over the holidays that students are not allowed in school with false nails, inappropriate haircuts, facial piercings and ear stretchers or dip dyed/coloured hair.

Sporting success

We have had a successful Autumn term with some outstanding results from our teams and individual students:

- Year 8 and 10 boys' Basketball teams were winners of their Tameside tournaments with Year11 finishing in 3rd place;
- Year 8 girls' Netball team won the Tameside Plate;
- KS4 girls' Badminton team was runner up in the Tameside Plate with the Year 10 boys finishing in 3rd place in the same competition;
- KS3 girls' Badminton team won the Tameside Plate;
- U12 girls' Football team was undefeated and well deserved Tameside champions and will be representing Tameside at the regional finals in a 5-a-side competition in the new year;
- U14 girls' Football team won the Tameside cup;
- U13 girls' Football team was runner up in the Tameside cup;
- Year 7 girls' team was runner up at the Tameside Cross Country Championships with Christie Allen winning her race and Jessica Willocks finishing second! Both girls have been selected to represent Tameside at the Greater Manchester Cross Country Championships in February along with Alanah Fidler (Yr7), Josh Rowson (Yr7) and Erin Breslin (Yr8).

Let's hope 2016 begins as well as 2015 has finished!!!

Fund raising for The Christie

Miss Aikin (ex Alder member of staff) is looking for volunteers to bag pack for The Christie at Morrison's supermarket in Denton on Sunday 10th January. Permission letters will be available on reception. The annual Alder run which also raises money for The Christie celebrates 10 years on Tuesday, 3rd May 2016. We are hoping this will be a big occasion with local primary schools and ex Alder students running in the event.

Calendar Dates

We break for Christmas on Friday, 18th December 2015 (1pm). Term dates for the remainder of the academic year are as follows:

Tuesday, 5th January 2016 – Friday, 12th February 2016

Monday, 22nd February 2016 – Friday, 1st April 2016

Please note School will be closed on Friday, 25th March and Monday 28th March for the Easter weekend.

Tuesday, 19th April 2016 – Friday, 27th May 2016 (*This is different from some other Local Authorities*)

Monday, 6th June 2016 – Tuesday, 19th July 2016 (finish at 1pm)

Training days for staff are Monday 4th January 2016 and Monday 18th April 2016.

Remaining Parents' Evenings

Year 7	Thursday, 21 st April 2016
Year 8	Tuesday, 9 th February 2016
Year 10	Wednesday, 30 th March 2016
Year 11	Monday, 25 th January 2016

Arrangements for the end of term

We will be having a traditional Christmas dinner on Wednesday, 16th December. No other food options will be available so students are advised to bring their own (unless they have pre-ordered a Christmas dinner, grab a bag or vegetarian option). Students are allowed to wear a Christmas Jumper on Wednesday and donate £2.00 to one of our charities should they wish to do so.

We finish school at 1pm on Friday, 18th December. Buses should be running at this earlier time. For this last day of term only, period 2 and 3 will run as normal and there will be celebration assemblies throughout the morning, starting period 1. The latter part of the morning will consist of activities or a disco. Students may come in non-uniform and again donate £2.00 for charity for the privilege. Attendance is not optional and I expect students to be in on the last day to take part in our end of term celebrations and activities.

Students should return to school at 8.20am on Tuesday, 5th January 2016.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support this term and I wish you and your family a very peaceful and restful (if possible!) Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



R O'Regan
Head teacher