



# Alder Community High School

A Specialist Maths and Computing College

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

14<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: End of term newsletter**

### Staffing news

We say goodbye to Miss Bowles in the Maths department at Christmas who is departing for a new life in Australia. We thank her for her outstanding contribution to students' success in Maths over the years and wish her all the best. We welcome Miss Ratford for the remainder of the academic year, to cover Miss Bowles, and Miss Ramsey who has joined the English department. Staff leaving us are Miss Etches, Year 8 and 9 Progress Leader, and Miss Cooper who will be absent for a period of time whilst on maternity leave; her classes will be covered by an experienced teacher, Mrs Oddy.

### Sporting news

Alder students continue to excel in the sporting world:

The Under 16 Boys' Basketball team and Under 14 Boys' Basketball teams both finished in 2nd place in the Tameside Cup.

- U12s Girls' Football finished 4th in the Tameside league.
- Both KS3 and KS4 Girls' Badminton teams finished 2nd in the Tameside Cup. Well done to Georgie Bates, Katie Partridge, Jodie Daniels, Chloe Johnson, Erin Breslin, Keziah Mbungu, Harriet McDonald and Megan Dickin
- U16 and U14 Girls Football teams both finished 3rd in the Tameside league. The U13 girls are heading towards victory on Thursday evening so watch this space!
- Year 7 Boys Badminton team are Tameside Champions
- Year 8/9 Boys Badminton A team were Gold medallists and B team Plate Bronze medallists in the Plate competition
- Year 10/11 Boys Badminton A team were Silver medallists in the Plate competition

Congratulations to Imogen Wardley, Laura Osborne, Megan Robinson, Daniel Machin and Will Machin who all qualified for the Tameside Swimming finals on 8th December. Special mentions go to Megan Robinson who won the 50m breaststroke, came 2nd in the individual medley and 3rd in butterfly, backstroke and freestyle and to Imogen Wardley who won the 50m backstroke and competed in 5 events!

Alder's cross country teams also did exceptionally well at the Tameside championships at East Cheshire Harriers with Libby Robinson finishing in 3rd place in the U12 competition, Jessica Willock



3rd place and Erin Breslin 7th place U14 girls' race as did Josh Willerton in the U14 boys' race. Katie Jagger also finished in 7th place in the Year 10/11 race. Jessica, Erin, Josh and Katie have all been selected to represent Tameside at the Greater Manchester Championships in February at Heaton Park.

Well done to our all sports teams and for their individual achievements.

### **Year 8 and 9 parents/carers**

We say goodbye to Mrs Etches at Christmas. In the interim, please could you direct any communication to the school office and ask for a Progress Leader. We will be appointing two new Progress Leaders in the new year.

### **Arrangements for the last day**

Lessons will continue as normal on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> December with assemblies for all year groups. On Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December we will have a variety of activities to celebrate the end of term and the beginning of the Christmas holidays. We will finish at 12.45pm (no lunch available). Students may be in non-uniform on the last day for a contribution of £2.00 towards school fund.

### **Bikes**

I am encouraged that a number of students are keeping active by cycling to school; however, it is also important to stay safe. With the dark nights upon us it is particularly important that students are visible to drivers. We have had reports of near misses on the road because students are not visible on their bikes. Please ensure your child has lights on their bike, wears a helmet and it is a good idea to wear a high visibility vest/jacket on the roads.

### **Year 11 Results day**

As we did last year, we are going to replicate GCSE results day for Year 11 with their pre-public examination results. Students will be given their results on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

### **Holidays during term time**

Unfortunately, we cannot authorise holidays during term time. As a community school we have to follow the instructions of the Local Authority.

### **Uniform change from September 2017**

Uniform standards are excellent but to improve them even further and to reduce issues caused by so called 'back to school' sections in shops and supermarkets, we have worked with our suppliers, Kidstop and JFC to produce unique Alder branded trousers/skirts; I believe it will relieve the pressure on parents and carers! There will be photographs on the website soon to show them, but they consist of a very thin green band along the waist for the girls' trousers/skirts and a green strip along the pocket of the boys' trousers.

It is expected that all students will wear the new trousers/skirts from September 2017. In the meantime, if you are replacing trousers or skirts it may be prudent to purchase the new item when replacing rather than having to do it again in September. These new items of uniform are of better quality and designed to last longer.



## **Duke of Edinburgh**

Dates of the Bronze Expedition 2017: Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> June – Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> June and Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> July – Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> July. We will be hiking and camping in The Peak District – specific locations to be kept secret.

Silver and Gold Expedition dates to be confirmed but I have asked that they be after the GCSE examinations have finished.

## **Calendar Dates**

We break for Christmas at 12.45pm on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December and return on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Term dates for the remainder of the academic year are as follows:

### **Spring Term**

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

February half term holiday: Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Easter holiday: Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 – Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### **Summer Term**

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017 – Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017

Bank holiday – Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017

May half term holiday: Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017

### **Other dates for your diary:**

Carol Service at Holy Trinity church - Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm

Year 9 examinations - week commencing Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Year 9 options evening - 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017

Year 11 Winmarleigh Hall trip - Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> April – Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017

Year 10 examinations - weeks commencing Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> June and Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### **Remaining Parents' Evenings**

Year 7 Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Year 8 Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Year 10 Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Year 11 Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017

### **Extra-curricular activities**

There is always a lot going on at Alder. There is a guide to all the extra-curricular activities on the school website. Please encourage your child to get involved!

### **Easy Fundraising**

Identified below is a website which gives details of how to raise money, which would obviously benefit both school and the students, whilst you shop. We use any money raised to benefit our students in a variety of ways.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/aldercommunityhigh/>



### **Year 7 Christmas card competition**

Recently students from Year 7 had the opportunity to design a card for a local business in Hyde, Nemo garage. There were lots of great entries and the owner, Sam, found it really hard to choose the winning design.

Alyssa Osbaldeston won the competition and her designs will go into print and be distributed to all of Nemo's customers; have we got a budding Graphic designer in the making?

### **Rewards Scheme**

Celebration assemblies continue this year and they take place at the end of each half term. It is rewarding to see so many students building up a collection of badges to reflect their achievement. Also, students can build up 'Alder points' and can gain bronze, silver and gold badges. We now have platinum and an exclusive 'black edition' badge. It makes us proud to see so many students showing off their achievements.

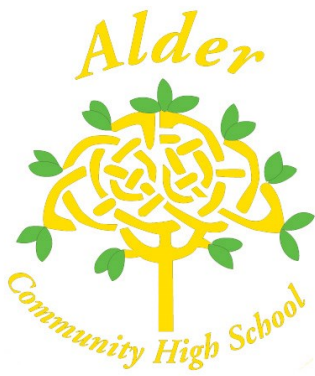
May I take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and restful Christmas.

Yours sincerely



**R O'Regan  
Head teacher**





# Alder Branded Uniform

Available now from:

Kids Stop, Market Street, Hyde. T: 0161 368 4500

JFC Sports, Redfern Ind Est, Hyde. T: 0161 367 7700



- Boys' black tailored trousers with green trimmed pockets
- Girls' black tailored trousers with a green trimmed waistband
- Girls' black pleated skirt with a green trimmed waistband

**Alder branded uniform will be compulsory from  
September 2017**