



Alder Community High School

A Specialist Maths and Computing College

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

16th January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: January newsletter

Staffing news

This term we welcome Mr Shaukat as second in ICT/Computing. Also, we have two new Progress Leaders, Mrs Robertson (currently a Senior Learning mentor at Alder) for Year 8 and Mr Sutcliffe for Year 9.

'Manbags'

I have noticed that a number of students are using these very small handbags ('manbags') instead of proper school bags. These so called 'manbags' are not suitable as a school bag as they are too small. Please ensure your child has a proper school bag that can support books and a PE kit. As with all bags, they should be removed during lessons and assemblies.

Weather guidance

Last Friday we had our first challenge with regards to snow! As it happens, the forecast was correct and we were able to start lessons only 25 minutes later than usual. However, snow does cause issues with travel, and with that in mind, in future we will have a delayed start to the school day. When it snows overnight or early in the morning, we will start at 9.00am; of course we will still be able to supervise any students who arrive earlier and you will be notified by text. Additional information will be available on the school website.

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, 19th January 2017.

Mobile phones/smart watches

As you know we have a ban on the use of mobile devices by students on the school site for good reasons. It has come to my attention that some students have started wearing so called 'smart watches'. These are internet enabled devices which can receive text messages, calls, and social media notifications. They are expensive items and if switched on in school would be treated the same as a mobile phone and therefore students are advised not to bring them to school. For that reason the external examination boards have banned smart watches from the examination hall (along with phones). Of course, a sensible wrist watch is perfectly acceptable.



Calendar Dates

I have been made aware of an independent website myschoolholidays.com, please be aware that this website is nothing to do with the school and despite us contacting them on several occasions they continue to display inaccurate information, eg, term dates for Alder. Term dates for the remainder of the academic year are as follows:

Spring Term

Thursday, 5th January 2017 – Friday, 31st March 2017

February half term holiday: Monday, 20th February 2017 – Friday, 24th February 2017

Easter holiday: Monday, 3rd April 2017 – Tuesday, 18th April 2017

Summer Term

Wednesday, 19th April 2017 – Friday, 21st July 2017

Bank holiday – Monday, 1st May 2017

May half term holiday: Monday, 29th May 2017 – Friday, 2nd June 2017

Other dates for your diary:

Year 9 options evening - 1st March 2017

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

Year 10 examinations - weeks commencing Monday, 19th June and Monday, 26th June 2017

School production 'Our Day Out' - 22nd + 23rd March 2017

Remaining Parents' Evenings

Year 7 Wednesday, 10th May 2017

Year 8 Thursday, 16th February 2017

Year 10 Wednesday, 29th March 2017

Year 11 Wednesday, 1st February 2017

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/>

Yours sincerely



R O'Regan
Head teacher

