



# Alder Community High School

A Specialist Maths and Computing College

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

18<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

## Welcome back!

Everyone has come back after the summer break with renewed vigour and students have settled quickly into routines and are working hard in lessons – a recipe for success! Our Year 7 students have settled down quickly with no upsets. Many of them have spoken to me about how welcome they have been made to feel; a core aspect of our ethos.

## Examination results 2015

Students achieved beyond expectations (based on KS2 SATs scores) once again with 73% of students achieving A\*-C grades in both English and Maths and 66% of students achieving 5 or more A\*-C grades including English and Maths. This figure is likely to creep up slightly after some examination papers were sent back for re-marking. More importantly, progress figures were extremely high again this year with 76% of students making at least expected progress in English (national average in 2014 = 70%) and an outstanding 91% making at least expected progress in Maths (national average in 2014 = 65%).

I am extremely proud of the students' achievements which have come about through hard work and determination from both staff and students.

## Open evening

This takes place on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September. As usual, school will finish at 1.00pm (no lunch in school) so enabling staff to set up for this most important of evenings in the school calendar. A number of students will be helping out on the evening and I thank them in advance for helping to showcase their school.

## Calendar Dates

We break for the half term on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015. Term dates for the remainder of the academic year are as follows:

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015 (finish at 1pm)

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016

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

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

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016 (finish at 1pm)

Training days for staff are Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

## Parents' Evenings

Year 7 Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 (tutors only) and Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016

Year 8 Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Year 9 Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Year 10 Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Year 11 Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016

### **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!

### **Helping Syrian Refugees**

We have all seen the terrible news about the plight of the Syrian people. One of our ex-students, Aishah Patwary, is trying to raise money for her voluntary work. She will be flying to Jordan to help at a Syrian refugee camp in October and is hoping to raise £3,500. Aishah has been into assemblies this week to talk to students. If you are able to support her with her voluntary work please visit her Just Giving page at [www.justgiving.com/AISHAHPATWARY](http://www.justgiving.com/AISHAHPATWARY)

### **Photographs**

Year 7 students will have their photographs taken on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> October by professional photographers and can be purchased by parents. Also they will be photographed in their tutor group, which gives them a keepsake for the future.

### **Rewards Scheme**

Celebration assemblies will continue this year and 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.

### **School Attendance**

This was very high last year (96%) and punctuality was also excellent. Please refer to the supplementary letter about attendance at school, using the link below. Please note we are not able to authorise holidays during term. [http://www.aldercommunityhighschool.org.uk/sites/all/files/publication/information\\_letter-penalty\\_notices\\_for\\_non-school\\_attendance\\_sept\\_2015](http://www.aldercommunityhighschool.org.uk/sites/all/files/publication/information_letter-penalty_notices_for_non-school_attendance_sept_2015)

### **Progress Leaders**

Our Progress Leaders are Mr Heaton (Year 7 and 8), Mrs Fiorentino (Year 9), Mrs Hamilton (Year 10) and Mrs Littlemore (Year 11). Their job is to ensure students are ready to learn and to support them with their progress. The Progress Leaders are your next port of call after your child's form tutor should you have any issues to discuss.

I look forward to working with you over the coming year and to celebrating further success.

Yours sincerely



**R O'Regan**  
**Head teacher**