



Alder Community High School

A Specialist Maths and Computing College

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

19th September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term newsletter 2016

Welcome back!

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. Years 8 – 11 have also settled well to routines and are concentrating on their studies.

Examination results 2016 –Team Alder!

Students achieved beyond expectations (based on KS2 SATs scores) once again with 75% of students achieving A*-C grades in both English and Maths and 72% 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 81% of students making at least expected progress in English (national average in 2015 = 69%) and 86% making at least expected progress in Maths (national average in 2015 = 66%).

During the newspaper and radio interviews on results day I likened the achievements of our students to those of Team GB in the Olympic Games in terms of exceeding expectations – Team Alder! I am extremely proud of the students' achievements which have come about through hard work and determination from both staff and students. It proves that having high expectations and following this up with relentless tracking and monitoring of student progress, along with quality teaching from a dedicated staff, leads to unimaginable success. There is a belief now amongst the student body that we are as good as, if not better than, anyone else!

Also, I would like to point out the fact that some of our present Year 10 and 11 students are celebrating excellent results already attained in Art and Core Science.

Open evening

This takes place on Thursday, 29th September. As usual, school will finish at 1.00pm (no lunch in school) thus enabling staff to set up for this most important of evenings in the school calendar. A number of students will be assisting on the evening and I thank them in advance for helping to showcase their school. We anticipate it being an extremely busy event and ask that only students who are helping out attend.



Calendar Dates

We break for the half term on Friday, 21st October 2016. Term dates for the remainder of the academic year are as follows:

Autumn Term

Monday, 5th September 2016 – Friday, 21st October 2016

October half term holiday: Monday, 24th October 2016 – Friday, 28th October 2016

Monday, 31st October 2016 – Tuesday, 20th December 2016

Christmas holiday: Wednesday, 21st December 2016 – Tuesday, 3rd January 2017

Spring Term

Wednesday, 4th January 2017 – Friday, 17th February 2017

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

Monday, 27th February 2017 – Friday, 31st March 2017

Easter holiday: Monday, 3rd April 2017 – Monday, 17th April 2017

Summer Term

Tuesday, 18th April 2017 – Friday, 26th May 2017

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

Monday, 5th June 2017 – Friday, 21st July 2017

Teacher Training Days / Bank Holidays

School will be closed to students on the following days: Friday, 25th November 2016; Wednesday, 4th January 2017; Tuesday, 18th April 2017. Bank holiday – Monday, 1st May 2017

Other dates for your diary:

- Friday, 21st October - trip to Blackpool for Years 8 – 11. Year 7 students will be going to Chester Zoo. These trips are instead of going at the end of the summer term when places are very busy;
- Wednesday, 9th November - Year 11 Information evening;
- Wednesday, 23rd November - GCSE Certificate Evening at Dukinfield Town Hall for last year's Year 11 students;
- Week commencing Monday, 5th December - Year 11 pre public examinations begin;
- Thursday, 8th December - Year 11 BTec Music evening;
- Wednesday, 14th – Friday, 16th December - Year 11 Science trip to CERN.

Parents' Evenings

Year 7 Monday, 17th October 2016 (tutors only) and Wednesday, 10th May 2017

Year 8 Thursday, 16th February 2017

Year 9 Tuesday, 6th December 2017

Year 10 Wednesday, 29th March 2017

Year 11 Wednesday, 1st 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! Enclosed are just some of the activities on offer.

Phoning school

Please note we are unable to disturb lessons to pass on messages to students. Unless it is an emergency, I would ask that parents and carers don't phone school to pass on messages to students as it takes up time from reception and causes unnecessary disruption to lessons.

Easy Fundraising

Enclosed are details of a website that raises money for school fund whilst you shop. We use any money raised to benefit our students in a variety of ways.

Rewards Scheme

Celebration assemblies continue this year and will 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.

Parent governor

If you are interested in becoming a parent governor and helping to shape the future of our school please contact Mrs Claire Hood, my PA and Clerk to the Governors, here at school for more information.

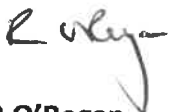
Progress Leaders

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

This first head's letter of the academic year is being sent through the post; in future it will be given to students to take home by hand and is always on the website, as are previous letters.

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

Yours sincerely



R O'Regan
Head teacher

Encs



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free

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easyfundraising.org.uk/aldercommunityhigh

Half Term 1: September & October

Unless stated, all clubs are for both boys and girls in all year groups.

PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

SEPT - OCT	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Lunch	Fitness Suite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Badminton Table Tennis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dance Club Badminton 	Trampolineing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10/11 Indoor Football GCSE & BTEC Club
After School		Cheerleading Club	Netball Practice	Dance Club (This club will run on Wednesdays for the first 3 weeks only)	Basketball

SCHOOL FIXTURES

Date	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
1 05-Sep					
2 12-Sep		Yr 10 + 11 Netball		Under 16 Girls Football	NPI
3 19-Sep		Yr 10 + 11 Netball		Under 16 Girls Football	NPI
4 26-Sep		Yr 10 + 11 Netball		Under 16 Girls Football	NPI
5 03-Oct		Yr 9 Netball		Under 14 Girls Football	JHI
6 10-Oct		Yr 9 Netball		Under 14 Girls Football	JHI
7 17-Oct		Yr 9 Netball	Rowing all years	Under 14 Girls Football	JHI

Also: Boys 11 a-side football matches.

Half Term 2: November & December

Unless stated, all clubs are for both boys and girls in all year groups.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

SEPT - OCT	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Lunch		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Badminton Table Tennis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dance Club Volleyball Club Girls Basketball Club 	Trampolineing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10/11 Indoor Football GCSE & BTEC Club
After School		Cheerleading Club		Dance Club	Basketball

SCHOOL FIXTURES

Date	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
1 31-Oct		JHI Yr 8 Netball	JHI Yr 10 + 11 Badminton	DBI + JHI Under 13 Girls Football	JHI
2 07-Nov	MWA Yr 7 Badminton	JHI Yr 8 Netball	JHI Yr 10 + 11 Badminton	DBI + JHI Under 13 Girls Football	JHI
3 14-Nov	MWA Yr 7 Badminton	JHI Yr 8 Netball	JHI Yr 10 + 11 Badminton	DBI + JHI Under 13 Girls Football	JHI
4 21-Nov	MWA Yr 7 Badminton	JHI Yr 7 Netball	JHI Yr 8 + 9 Badminton	DBI + JHI Under 12 Girls Football	NFI
5 28-Nov		JHI Yr 7 Netball	JHI Yr 8 + 9 Badminton	DBI + JHI Under 12 Girls Football	NFI
6 05-Dec		Cross Country Yr 7 Netball	JHI Yr 8 + 9 Badminton	DBI + JHI Under 12 Girls Football	NFI
7 12-Dec	Swimming Heats		Swimming finals		
8 19-Dec					
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS					

Creative and Expressive Arts EXTRA-CURRICULAR 2016/17

	Room	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
LUNCH	B3		All Years Art Club	All Years Art Club	All Years Art Club	
	B5	All Years Art Club	All Years Art Club	All Years Art Club		
	C17	Vocal Group	Guitar Club	Theory	Keyboard Club	
	C15	GCSE Composition	GCSE Composition	GCSE Composition	GCSE Composition	
	Piano Room	All years practice	All years practice	KS4 rehearsal time	KS4 rehearsal time	
AFTER SCHOOL	B3		All Years Art Club		All Years Art Club	All Years Art Club
	B5	GCSE Photography Club		KS4 Intervention	GCSE Photography Club	KS4 Intervention
	B4		Whole School Production		Whole school production	
	C17	KS4 Catch-up	School Band	Production	KS4 Catch-up	Set work classes (KS4)
	C15	KS4 Catch-up	School Band	KS3 Bands	KS4 Catch-up	