



# Alder Community High School

A Specialist Maths and Computing College

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

15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Autumn Term newsletter 2017**

## 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 hard on their studies.

## Examination results 2017

Students achieved excellent examination results again this year with 73% of students achieving a grade 4 or above in **both** English and Mathematics. This figure is likely to creep up slightly after some examination papers were sent back for re-marking. As with last year, we are expecting our overall progress figures to be well above the national average.

I am extremely proud of the results 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!

## Open evening

This takes place on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> 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. Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September is a training day and students are not required to attend school on that day.

## Parents' Evenings

Year 7 Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (tutors only) and Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Year 8 Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Year 9 Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Year 10 Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Year 11 Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018



"Alder Community High School is a GOOD school" (Ofsted, June 2014).

## **Calendar Dates**

We break for the half term on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Term dates for the remainder of the academic year are as follows:

### **Autumn Term**

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017

October half term holiday: Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017

Christmas holiday: Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### **Spring Term**

Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018

February half term holiday: Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018

Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Easter holiday: Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018

### **Summer Term**

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

May half term holiday: Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018

### **Teacher Training Days / Bank Holidays**

School will be closed to students on the following days:

Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017; Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017. Bank holiday – Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017

Other dates for your diary:

- Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> October - trip to Blackpool for Years 8 – 11. Year 7 students will be going to Chester Zoo.
- Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Music Performance (6.30pm – 8.00pm)
- Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> November - Dance show (6.30pm – 8.00pm)
- Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> - Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December - Year 11 Science trip to CERN.
- Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> – Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> February – Year 10/11 MFL trip to Barcelona.
- Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Year 8 Disneyland Paris trip.

### **Phoning school**

Please note we are unable to disturb lessons to pass on messages to students, unless it is an emergency.

### **School Uniform**

Overall students are dressed impeccably and bring the correct equipment. We have had a couple of issues with 'skinny' pants. Please check our uniform policy carefully and beware of 'back to school' sections in shops and supermarkets that may tell you their pants are suitable when they actually haven't checked with me! To guarantee that your child complies with the uniform policy, please use our preferred suppliers, JFC and Kidstop.

### Easy Fundraising

Easy Fundraising is a website that allows you to raise money for school fund whilst you shop online. We use any money raised to benefit our students in a variety of ways. It is free to join: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/aldercommunityhigh/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/aldercommunityhigh/)

### ParentPay

We would like to encourage the use of ParentPay. It prevents the need for cash for things such as catering and trips. If you would like to use ParentPay, please contact school for an activation letter.

### 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.

### 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.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunch time</b>	Friendship Club Years 8 & 9 See Mrs Vella	Badminton, Table Tennis and Volleyball All year groups Mr Watt	Trampolining Mr Bibby/Miss Hill	Football Yr 7,8 & 9 Mr Watt	GCSE & BTEC PE intervention
				Fitness Suite Yr 7 Miss Hill	Friday Friendship Club – Year 7 See Mrs Vella
	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>After school</b>		Cheerleading All year groups Miss Pike	Dance All year groups Miss Pike	Netball All year groups Miss Hill	Basketball All year groups
		Art Club All year groups	Photography Club Year 9 & 11 only	Drama Club All year groups Miss Osborne	Art Club All year groups
				Art Club All year groups	

### 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 Hamilton (Year 8), Mrs Robertson (Year 9), Mr Sutcliffe (Year 10) and Mrs Littlemore (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. Also enclosed with this letter is an attendance certificate for the last academic year and information about Penalty Notices (Years 8-11 only) and a copy of Safeguarding Matters at Alder.

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

Yours sincerely



**R O'Regan**  
Head teacher

Encs

