



Alder Community High School

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

17th September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term newsletter 2018

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.

During the last day of the summer term (non-uniform day) we raised £545.00 which will go towards the cost of an additional camera for the photography students and two new table tennis tables that are on order. Our next fundraiser will be towards the cost of restocking our new Library with books - Miss Hillier and our students have already raised £54 from the 'readathon'.

Examination results 2018

Students achieved excellent examination results again this year with 77% of students achieving a grade 4 or above in both English and Mathematics. As with last year, we are expecting our overall progress figures to be well above the national average. I am extremely proud of our students' achievements and would like to thank our dedicated staff for all they do. Of course, it goes without saying that our students couldn't succeed without the support of parents and carers and I thank you all for your continued support.

Staffing news

We welcome back Miss Billington to the Science department as Head of Chemistry this term. Other new staff starting this term are Mrs McCladdery, Curriculum Leader for Maths, Miss Holland, teacher of Maths Miss Potts, teacher of Geography, Miss Reid, teacher of Textiles/Technology, Ms Bass, teacher of Food and Catering. Also, covering maternity we have Dr Weglicki, teacher of Science and Mrs Flood, Finance Assistant.

Open evening – Thursday, 27th September 2018

This takes place on Thursday, 27th 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, 28th September is a training day and students are not required to attend school on that day.



Parents' Evenings

Year 7: Tuesday, 9th October 2018 (tutors only) and Wednesday, 1st May 2019

Year 8: Thursday, 22nd November 2018

Year 9: Wednesday, 27th February 2019

Year 10: Tuesday, 25th June 2019

Year 11: Thursday, 17th January 2019

Parents of all Year 11 students will also be invited to attend a Study Guidance and Exam Revision Information evening on Wednesday 17th October 2018.

Calendar Dates

We break for the half term on Friday, 26th October 2018. Term dates for the remainder of the academic year are as follows:

Autumn Term

Tuesday, 4th September 2018 – Friday, 26th October 2018

October half term holiday: Monday, 29th October 2018 – Friday, 2nd November 2018

Monday, 5th November 2018 – Friday, 21st December 2018

Christmas holiday: Monday, 24th December 2018 – Friday 4th January 2019

Spring Term

Monday, 7th January 2019 – Friday, 15th February 2019

February half term holiday: Monday, 18th February 2019 – Friday, 22nd February 2019

Monday, 25th February 2019 – Friday, 5th April 2019

Easter holiday: Monday, 8th April 2019 – Monday, 22nd April 2019

Summer Term

Tuesday, 23rd April 2019 – Friday, 24th May 2019

May half term holiday: Monday, 27th May 2019 – Friday, 31st May 2019

Monday, 3rd June 2019 – Friday, 19th July 2019

Teacher Training Days / Bank Holidays

School will be closed to students on the following days: Friday, 28th September 2018 and Friday, 30th November 2018.

Bank holidays – Monday, 22nd April and Monday, 6th May 2019.

Other dates for your diary:

- Wednesday, 26th September 2018 – European Day of Languages
- Thursday, 11th October – Alder Talent show
- Friday, 19th October – Activities day. Trip to Blackpool for Years 8 – 11. Year 7 students will be going to Chester Zoo.
- Wednesday, 28th November - Music Performance (6.30pm – 8.00pm)
- Wednesday 6th March – Saturday 9th March 2019 – Disneyland Paris trip
- Friday 29th March – Monday 1st April 2019 – Year 10 French trip to Paris

Extra-curricular activities

There is always a lot going on at Alder. We are currently collating the timetable of all the extra-curricular activities, which will be available on the school website. Please encourage your child to get involved!



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.

ParentPay

To help school it would assist us if when paying for trips, revision guides, etc, if Parent Pay could be used rather than sending cash into school; the school office can issue an activation letter if required. ParentPay can also be used to credit your child's dinner money account.

MyEd School App

If you a priority 1 contact at school for your child, by downloading the MyEd school app, not only can you view your child's timetable, attendance and achievement points but it also means that school can send you messages for FREE meaning a significant cost saving throughout the year.

<https://www.myedschoolapp.com/>

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.

Progress Leaders

Our Progress Leaders are Mr Heaton (Year 7 and Primary liaison), Mrs Littlemore (Year 8), Mrs Hamilton (Year 9), Mrs Robertson (Year 10), Mr Sutcliffe (Year 11) and 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 given to students to take home by hand and will be available to access on the website. All future letters will be sent electronically via text/MyEd message with a link to the website. Please ensure that your contact details are kept up to date. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy, please contact the school office who will be happy to provide this.

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

Yours sincerely



R O'Regan
Head teacher

