



Alder Community High School

A Specialist Maths and Computing College

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16th July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

We are almost at the end of another school year at Alder and it has been wonderful celebrating our students' achievements during praise assemblies last week. Also, we held a sports awards evening last week and the main school awards will be presented tonight. It is incredible how fast the school year progresses and also how quickly the new one begins! You will find the following information useful for the end of term and in preparation for the new term.

Arrangements for the last week of term

Lessons will continue as normal throughout the week. During assemblies on Thursday, 19th July, I will as ever be mentioning, as I do every summer, the importance of being safe over the holidays and in particular, keeping away from rivers, streams and reservoirs; already we have seen young people lose their lives in the Manchester area this summer. I would be grateful if you could reinforce this with your child. To help support this message, Greater Manchester Fire Service shall be presenting to students during the assembly.

On Friday, 20th July lessons will continue as normal but we will finish at 12.45pm. There will be no lunches available, but break time will operate as normal. Students may choose to be in non-uniform on Friday for a £1 contribution towards school fund. We are trying to raise money to buy new table tennis tables for the PE department and cameras for GCSE photography.

Going forward, I would be grateful if parents know of any businesses that would like to sponsor us to help raise money for essential equipment as reductions in Government funding along with high PFI costs that we have to pay to Interserve, have had a huge impact on available funds which means less to spend on resources for students.

Staffing news

We say goodbye to Mrs Owen, Miss Barber, Mrs Wicks, Mrs Oddy, Mr Kerwin, Miss Cooper and Miss Brunt. I thank them all for their service to our school and in particular to Miss Brunt and Miss Cooper who have been at Alder since the school opened in 2001. I wish them all the very best in their next venture and a happy retirement to Miss Brunt.

End of term attainment

Students in years 7, 8 and 9 will receive their end of term attainment grades this week, probably on Thursday. Please ensure you ask your child about this and contact school on Friday morning should you not receive them.

Update on building work

Our new G Block should be completed by the time we return to school in September. It will consist of spaces for the library, the Learning Support Centre, Progress Leaders, Learning Mentor and 'Stage2'. Our modern foreign languages staff will be temporarily housed on D corridor whilst work gets underway on the four classrooms being built outside; these should be completed around January 2019.

Uniform

During the summer holidays some students experiment with their appearance. Please ensure you read our uniform policy carefully before your child returns in September to ensure a smooth start to the term. I would ask you to pay particular attention to haircuts and colour of hair – no extreme haircuts please or dyed/dipped hair along with no false nails/coloured nail varnish and a reminder that only one pair of studs/sleepers is allowed. Also, please ensure your child's bag is fit for purpose; as per the uniform policy, all students should have a suitable bag for school and all the correct equipment. Handbags are not necessarily suitable for school.

Parent Pay, MYEd

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.

If you are 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/>

GDPR photograph consent

From time to time, we may take photos of our students, both in school and during off site activities. We really value using photos and video of students, to be able to celebrate and showcase their excellent work. These may be used in a variety of ways both within school on displays or in presentations and externally, such as on the school website, school prospectus, social media pages and in the local media. Priority one contacts were recently sent a text message with a link to a consent form, giving parents control over how we use the images. It is important that we receive a response for each student. Thank you to those who have responded already. A reminder text will be sent out this week to those who have not yet responded.

Holidays during term time

Please can I remind you that family holidays during term time will not be authorised. I understand that sometimes there are reasons why a child may require leave of absence from school and I would invite parents to discuss their individual circumstances with an appropriate member of staff.

Calendar Dates

Students start back at school on Tuesday, 4th September 2018. Students are not required to attend school on staff training days which are: Monday, 3rd September, Friday, 28th September and Friday, 30th November. Term dates for the academic year are as follows:

Autumn Term

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

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

Spring Term

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

Monday, 25th February 2019 – Friday, 5th April 2018

Summer Term

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

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

May I thank you for your support throughout the year and let's hope the sunshine continues into the summer holiday - enjoy the break!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. O'Regan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

R O'Regan
Head teacher

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