



# Alder Community High School

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

12<sup>th</sup> July 2019

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 this week. This continued last night at Sports Awards Evening with the main Awards Evening taking place on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> July. 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 Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

On Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> 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 £2 contribution towards school fund. We are raising funds to buy visualizers for the maths department, microscopes for science and tablets for the accelerated reading programme. 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.

## 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 in the ear lobes is allowed. If your child is having their ears pierced this summer please be aware that earrings MUST be removed for PE. 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. Full details of the School Uniform and Equipment Policy can be found on our [website](#).

## New House Ties

As you are already aware, we launched our house system in April. Your child will have already been placed in one of 6 houses all named after varieties of the Alder tree: **Viridis, Rubra, Crispa, Incana, Cordata and Nitida**. From September students will be required to wear the house tie which is available over the summer holidays from our 2 local suppliers, Kidstop and JFC Sports. We hope to keep some stock in school should you experience any issues with obtaining a tie. The ties will be plain green in



colour (Alder green) with the Alder logo coloured to reflect the appropriate house. The table below shows which house your child is in and the house colours.

| House Name    | <b>Incana</b> | <b>Rubra</b> | <b>Nitida</b> | <b>Crispa</b> | <b>Cordata</b> | <b>Viridis</b> |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| House Colour  | <b>Gold</b>   | <b>Red</b>   | <b>White</b>  | <b>Purple</b> | <b>Blue</b>    | <b>Green</b>   |
| Year 7 Forms  | 7TLI          | 7PPO         | 7AHA          | 7KOS          | 7LCR           | 7NPI           |
| Year 8 Forms  | 8SRE          | 8JWA         | 8JHL          | 8ZMU          | 8CBS           | 8JCL           |
| Year 9 Forms  | 9MWA          | 9SSI         | 9KBA          | 9JHI          | 9USH           | 9CDE           |
| Year 10 Forms | 10VLA         | 10AHN        | 10JCA         | 10PRA         | 10RYO          | 10CCO          |
| Year 11 Forms | 11VGO         | 11CGA        | 11WTA (AHH)   | 11AGR(RHO)    | 11MDO          | 11KSM          |

### Staffing news

We say goodbye to Mr Abushal, Miss Billington, Mrs Khan and from our support staff, Mrs Hulmes and Mrs Ardern, and also Mrs Gallagher who left us in June. I thank them all for their service to our school and wish them all the very best for the future.

In September we welcome Miss Petty in English and Mr Lindsay in Maths.

### End of term attainment

Students in years 8 and 9 will receive their end of term attainment grades next week; we will send a text/MyEd message to inform you of the day that they are handed out. Please ensure you ask your child about this and contact school should you not receive them.

### October Activities Day

As in previous years we avoid the summer queues by having our summer trip day in the Autumn term. This will take place on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> October. Years 8-11 will be going to Blackpool Pleasure Beach and Year 7 to Chester Zoo. Letters regarding these trips will be going out before the end of term. As always, trip payments will not be refunded should your child be removed from the trip by yourself or by school.

### Update on building work

Our four classroom block is due to be complete in the early part of the Autumn term. It will house our modern foreign languages department and we look forward to opening this brand new teaching facility to help accommodate our growing numbers.

### Parent Fundraising Committee

A number of parents have commented that they would like to help raise funds for school by forming a committee. If you are interested in being involved in this venture please get in touch.

### Parent Pay

To help school it would assist us if when paying for trips, revision guides, etc, if [ParentPay](#) could be used rather than sending cash into school; the school office can issue an activation letter if required.

### MyEd

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/>



## Calendar Dates

Students start back at school on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 at 8.20am. Term dates for the academic year are as follows:

### Autumn Term

Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 – Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019

### Spring Term

Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

### Summer Term

Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Students are not required to attend school on staff training days which are: Monday, 2nd September, Friday, 27th September and Monday 2nd December. School will also be closed on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, the Bank Holiday for VE celebrations.

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



**R O'Regan**  
Head teacher

