



Alder Community High School

Mottram Old Road | Gee Cross | Hyde | Cheshire | SK14 5NJ

T: 0161 368 5132 E: admin@alderchs.uk

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

16th September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term newsletter 2019

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 we raised a fantastic £920 on non-uniform day! We will be putting this towards the following new equipment for students:

- Video Cameras in the English department for recording assessment materials;
- Tablets for the library to support the accelerated reading scheme.

Examination results 2019

Students achieved excellent examination results again this year with 76% of students achieving a grade 4 or above in **both** English and Mathematics. This is way 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 Mr Lindsay in Maths, Miss Petty in English, Mr Hallsworth in Science and Miss Bates as our Business Administration Apprentice working on reception and in the school office. We also welcome Ms Grey-Smart and Mr Humphries who are supporting our students within the classroom and in Headway.

Open evening – Thursday, 26th September 2019

This takes place on Thursday, 26th 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.

Training Day

Friday, 27th September is a training day and students are not required to attend school on that day.

Parents' Evenings

Year 7: Tuesday, 22nd October 2019 (form tutors only) and Thursday, 25th June 2020

Year 8: Thursday, 28th November 2019

Year 9: Thursday, 9th January 2020

Year 10: Wednesday, 6th May 2020

Year 11: Thursday, 6th February 2020

Parents of all Year 11 students have also been invited to attend a Study Guidance and Exam Revision Information evening on Tuesday, 17th September 2019.



Calendar Dates

We break for the half term on Friday, 25th October 2019. Term dates for this academic year are as follows:

Autumn Term

Tuesday, 3rd September 2019 – Friday, 25th October 2019

Monday, 4th November 2019 – Friday, 20th December 2019

Spring Term

Monday, 6th January 2020 – Friday, 14th February 2020

Monday, 24th February 2020 – Friday, 3rd April 2020

Summer Term

Monday, 20th April 2020 – Friday, 22nd May 2020

Monday, 1st June 2020 – Thursday, 16th July 2020

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

Other dates for your diary:

- Wednesday, 25th September 2019 – European Day of Languages;
- Thursday, 10th October 2019 – ‘Alder’s Got Talent’ show;
- Friday, 18th October 2019 – Activities day. Trip to Blackpool for Years 8 – 11. Year 7 students will be going to Chester Zoo;
- Thursday, 10th December 2019 – BTEC Dance Show;
- Wednesday, 11th – Friday, 13th December 2019 – Year 11 Physics trip to CERN;
- Tuesday, 11th – Friday, 14th February 2020 – Year 8 Science trip to Disneyland Paris;
- Wednesday, 25th – Saturday, 28th March 2020 – Year 10 Spanish trip to Barcelona.

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 and Equipment

Overall, students are dressed impeccably and bring the correct equipment. We have had a couple of issues with crossover shoes that look like trainers/pumps. Please check our uniform policy carefully and beware of ‘back to school’ sections in shops and supermarkets that may tell you their shoes are suitable when they actually haven’t checked with me! We have high standards and I know that parents want us to maintain them so please check with the appropriate Progress Leader if unsure about any item of uniform.

Equipment (pens, pencils, etc) is available for sale between 7.45am and 8.20am in the dining room.

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 and monitor your child’s dinner money account.



MyEd School App

If you are a priority 1 contact at school for your child, by downloading the [MyEd](https://www.myedschoolapp.com/) 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/>

Reward 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), Mr Sutcliffe (Year 8), Mrs Littlemore (Year 9), Mrs Hamilton (Year 10) and Mrs Robertson (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.

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.

Please ensure that your contact details are kept up to date. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of the head's letter, 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

