



# Alder Community High School

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

T: 0161 368 5132 E: [admin@alderchs.uk](mailto:admin@alderchs.uk)

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

July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Virtual Transition**

At this time of year, we would normally welcome parents and children into school for our induction information evening and our transition days. It is with great sadness that we are unable to offer our usual transition activities this year. This means that the children will not be coming into school before the summer break as we had hoped.

We still value the process of transition greatly and it is still extremely important to us that our students and parents can learn more about us as a school. This year, we invite you to visit our 'virtual transition' which can be found on our school website: [www.aldercommunityhighschool.org.uk/transition2021](http://www.aldercommunityhighschool.org.uk/transition2021).

Here you will find videos from your child's form tutor, your child's progress leader and a message from Mr O'Regan, Headteacher. There is lots of information on this page which should hopefully give you an insight into what to expect in September and answer any questions you may have about what it's like to be a student at Alder Community High School. Enclosed with this letter is information relating to your child's form group, their form tutor and their Alder House.

## **'We Are Alder' Summer School**

Our optional 'We Are Alder' Summer School will run for 3 days, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021. If you have booked a place for your child already, further information will be sent to you before the end of term. This will be an opportunity for students to see the school building and meet some of our wonderful staff. Unfortunately, students will not get the chance to meet their form tutor during the summer school but will be able to meet their Progress Leader (Mrs Hamilton). Students will be involved in a range of enriching and academic activities and although it will be useful for our new year 7s, please do not feel that you need cancel any existing plans in order for your child to attend; family holidays are important too. If you haven't already booked but wish to do so, please contact the school office.

## **Year 7 Transition Day**

Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 will be a Year 7 Transition Day. This will allow students to familiarise themselves with the school building, our school routines and spend time with their form tutor. It will also give them a chance to ask any questions they may have before the timetable starts properly on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September.

On Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September, your child should arrive at school for 8.45am. They can arrive either at the front entrance of school or via the back-gate entrance, members of staff will be available to direct children from 8.30am. If parents are dropping students off at the front of school, I ask that you remain in your car in order to reduce the number of people on the school site. Students should attend Alder in full school uniform including their 'house' coloured ties which can be purchased from our usual uniform suppliers.

Please check the uniform information carefully and if you are in doubt about any shoes or uniform purchases, please check with school prior to purchasing. Students will also need to bring a bag to school which will include their Super 7 essential equipment plus the preferred equipment of a glue stick, pencil crayons, a pencil sharpener



and a pack of tissues. The preferred equipment will help us as a school to reduce cross-contamination in the classroom. Our uniform and equipment policies are enclosed.

During the transition day, students will meet with their form tutor and form group, have a tour of the relevant sections of the school (including the dining hall) and join in with a number of 'getting to know you' activities. They will also be introduced to their Progress Leader, Mrs Hamilton and other key members of staff.

At break and lunch time, students will be introduced to the dining room, where we operate a cashless catering system. Please ensure that you have set up an account on ParentPay (your activation letter has been emailed to you) and funds have been added so that your child can purchase items from the dining hall for break and lunch. Students can bring a packed lunch and a healthy snack for their break time if you would prefer. Students who are entitled to free school meals will automatically receive a lunch.

The transition day will finish at 2.30pm. Students can be picked up from the front entrance or the back gate. They can of course, walk home alone with your permission. If parents are collecting by car, please bear in mind that the car park will be busy. It might be easier to arrange to meet your child at the back of school near the open ground between Shaw Avenue and Grange Road South.

On **Tuesday, 7th September** school will re-open fully to all students. In September, we hope to be able to return to the normal school day timing, of starting at 8:20am and finishing at 2:45pm. We will confirm this before the start of the new term. The term and holiday dates are enclosed with this letter.

### **Future Communications – School Gateway**

We are currently introducing School Gateway to Alder Community High School – a parent engagement app that will allow you to communicate with the school at anytime from anywhere.

All future school related communications, newsletters, reports, timetables and attendance figures will go through School Gateway. To stay up to date with what's going on at school make sure you download the app for free. Just search *School Gateway* in your app store and download.

Your login details will be automatically generated using the contact information we already have, so please make sure the details we hold for you are up to date. You can check and change these details by sending an email to [admin@alderchs.uk](mailto:admin@alderchs.uk).

If you have any questions or would like some more information, please see the School Gateway site here: <https://schoolgateway.co.uk/>. You can also login to the online version of School Gateway via this site if you do not have a smart phone, although we do recommend using the app if possible as it makes it far easier to get hold of parents when we need to.

I know your child will have an enjoyable first day with us but if you have any queries about the arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact the school. I look forward to meeting your child in September. In the meantime, I wish you and your family, a restful and relaxing summer.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr R. O'Regan**  
Headteacher

