23 October 2026

Alsop High School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As our first half term ends, thank you for your support. Our new Year 7 pupils have settled into school, and our older students are preparing for their next steps. There is much to celebrate. Thank you also to our staff for their care and hard work.

Celebrating our students
It was lovely to see Year 7 families at our welcome evening on 15 October. Moving to secondary school is a big change. The evening gave families a chance to meet staff, ask questions and talk about how their children are settling in.

More than 250 Year 11 students took part in practice interviews with employers. Our visitors praised their preparation, good manners and enthusiasm. The students I spoke to felt more confident and proud of what they had done. Thank you to everyone who supported the day.

Our Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh students completed the outdoor expedition for their Bronze Award. During a two-day trip to Edale in the Peak District, they followed a planned route, cooked meals and camped overnight. Our Year 8 girls won a city-wide tag rugby event. Year 8 cookery competition winners also had the chance to learn from a professional chef. Well done to everyone involved.

Clubs, trips and activities help pupils build confidence and make friends. Please encourage your child to join at least one club or activity each week. Year 9 pupils can sign up for the Duke of Edinburgh programme after half-term. You can find details of our clubs and more school news on our website and newsletter.

Year 11 mock exams
Year 11 mock exams take place in the weeks starting Monday 9 and Monday 16 November. These practice exams help students prepare for their GCSEs. They also help teachers see what students understand and where they need more support.

There are fewer than 120 school days left before the summer GCSE exams. National research shows a clear link between higher attendance in Year 11 and achieving strong passes in English and maths, meaning grade 5 or above. Being on time and attending every lesson gives students the best possible chance to succeed. Missing lessons means missing teaching, practice and feedback that are difficult to replace.

Please help your child attend every day, arrive on time and make full use of their planned after-school revision sessions, known as Period 6. Short, regular revision and enough sleep matter too. If your child is worried or needs help, please contact the Year 11 team.

Returning after half-term
All pupils return on **Monday 2 November**. They should be ready for line-ups at **8:25am**. Please check their uniform, equipment, lanyard and phone pouch during the break so they are ready for the first day back. From Monday 2 November, we will stop serving breakfast at **8:20am**. This gives pupils time to finish eating before line-ups. Please make sure your child arrives early enough if they want breakfast.

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Attendance
Strong attendance helps children achieve better results and gives them more choices for the future. GCSE results can open doors to college courses, apprenticeships and future jobs. Every year of school helps build the knowledge and confidence children need for these next steps. If your child is finding it hard to attend, please speak to us early so we can help.

Please also remind your child to treat others with respect, both in school and in our local community.

Year 7 applications for September 2027
The deadline to apply for a Year 7 place for September 2027 is **Saturday 31 October 2026**. Early figures show strong interest in Alsop, which is encouraging to see.

If you have a child in Year 6 and would like them to join us, please complete your local authority's secondary school application by the deadline and include Alsop among your preferences. Please also share this reminder with any families considering Alsop for their child.

Dates for your diary

Date	**Event**
Monday 2 November	School reopens. Line-ups at 8:25am.
Weeks starting 9 & 16 November	Year 11 mock exams.
Friday 27 November	Staff training day (INSET). School closed to pupils.
Thursday 10 December	Year 11 and Year 13 parents' evening, 4:00–6:30pm.
Thursday 17 December	Christmas concert.
Friday 18 December	End of term. School finishes at 12:30pm.

Please check our website, www.alsophigh.org.uk, and the MyChildAtSchool app for updates. The website has school news, term dates, club information and help with revision.

Thank you again for your support. I hope you and your family enjoy a restful half-term. We look forward to seeing our pupils back on 2 November.

Yours sincerely

Peter Mee
Head of School