



Also High School

3 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As we embark on a new calendar year, I want to extend a warm welcome back to all our students and families. The start of a new year is always filled with promise and potential, offering an invaluable opportunity for a fresh start. I hope that the Christmas holidays has provided a well-deserved break and has enabled our students to return to school with renewed energy and determination to meet our high expectations and develop strong learning habits.

Reflecting on the achievements of the Autumn Term, we are proud of the progress we have made and are well placed to continue improving the school experience for every student. Our collective efforts have laid a strong foundation, and we are excited to build upon this success as we strive to secure our rapid and sustained school improvement.

Be Ready: Perfect Uniform

We are proud of our school uniform. It sets the tone for a respectful, focused learning environment. Please ensure your child arrives each day in full uniform:

- **Blazer:** Green with the school logo and gold piping
- **Pullover/Cardigan:** V-neck, plain navy with the school badge
- **Footwear:** Black shoes or black trainers (fully black)
- **Tie:**
 - Year 7: Green stripe
 - Year 8: Silver stripe
 - Year 9: Gold stripe
 - Year 10: Purple stripe
 - Year 11: Navy stripe
- **Trousers/Skirt:** Plain black trousers (no jeans/cords) or plain navy skirt/pinafore
- **Socks:** Plain dark
- **PE Kit:**
 - Also branded T-shirt/long-sleeve shirt
 - **Also branded hoodie or blazer over the PE kit**
 - Plain black leggings or training pants

Please note: Non-logo hoodies, hats, hoods, and caps must be removed upon entering the building.

From Wednesday, 8th January, we reserve the right to send students home to resolve uniform issues if reasonable efforts have not been made. Students will be welcomed back once the issue is addressed.

Learning Habit - Attendance

There is a clear link between attendance and student outcomes at GCSE. The school's expectation is that students attend 100% of the time. There is no reason for children who attend Alsop High School to attend less than their peers at other schools across the country. Your child will compete against these other students to gain the best GCSEs possible, and the surest way to undermine your own child's success is to allow them to take time off.

Please note that the DfE changed guidance around attendance, and term time holidays, as always, we will be adhering to the policy and expectations set out by the Government and Local authority.

Learning Habit – Punctuality

Punctuality is a vital part of school life, and at Alsop High School, we are committed to supporting all students in forming good habits that will benefit them now and in the future.

As one of our core values is to be respectful, we will take a fair and supportive approach in the first few days after the Christmas holidays. During this time, we will work with students to practice arriving at school on time and remind them of the importance of punctuality. However, **from Monday 13th January**, any student arriving **after 8:30am** will receive an automatic same-day detention, supervised by our Progress Leaders.

This policy reflects our belief that every minute of learning is important, and we make no apologies for holding high expectations. Arriving on time ensures students can fully engage in their education, develop strong routines, and meet the high standards we expect of everyone in our school community. We appreciate your support in reinforcing this important message with your child. Together, we can ensure that all students are ready to make the most of their learning opportunities.

The new year is the perfect opportunity to work with us to break any old habits and establish positive routines to support 100% attendance and punctuality. May I also remind you that we have breakfast club starting 8 a.m. and tutor time starts at 8.25 a.m. All students are expected to be on site by this time.

Learning Habit – Positive Behaviour

To support the minority of students who find it challenging to meet Alsop's high standards of conduct, we have made some changes to the way we operate our internal suspension classroom, now called the Reflective Learning Centre (RLC).

We will use the first few days as we return to school to clearly communicate our expectations with parents, carers, and students. However, **from Monday 13th January**, any student placed in the RLC will be required to arrive at school at 9:15am and will be dismissed at 3:30pm.

While in the RLC, students will follow a modified curriculum tailored to their needs and will receive support from our skilled behaviour support staff. This approach is designed to help students reflect on their behaviour, make positive changes, and reintegrate successfully into the wider school community.

We appreciate your ongoing support as we continue to uphold our high standards and ensure a positive learning environment for all.

Learning Habit – Positive Behaviour

To support our students in remaining focused during lessons and maintaining strong daily habits, we have decided to ban all fizzy and caffeine-based drinks in school. I'm sure you will agree that the side effects of these drinks are well known and can significantly impact students' ability to concentrate in the classroom.

From **Monday 13th January**, we will request that all students dispose of these drinks in the bins provided before entering school. Any student found with these drinks during the school day will be asked by staff to dispose of them.

We kindly ask for your support in ensuring that your child does not bring fizzy or caffeine-based drinks to school. This is part of our whole-school approach to promoting the wellbeing of our students and ensuring they are ready to learn and succeed each day.

Mobile phones

As you are aware, our policy has long been that Alsop High School is a phone-free school between 8:05am and 3:00pm. While this has been our expectation, we have not fully enforced it by requiring that mobile phones remain completely invisible during the school day or confiscating them when this rule is not followed.

In the new year, we will reinforce this expectation through clear conversations with our students, ensuring they understand that mobile phones must always remain out of sight during school hours.

The benefits of such an approach are well-documented, including significant improvements in students' mental health, wellbeing, and overall learning experience. We believe this step will contribute positively to creating the best possible environment for all students to focus, engage, and thrive.

We appreciate your continued support in working together to uphold this policy for the benefit of our school community.

Home/School Agreement

We are working hard to ensure that parents and carers are fully involved in their child's education. To support this commitment, I once again attached the school's home/school agreement to underline the expectations between parents and carers, students and the school.

https://files.schudio.com/alsop-high-school-2/files/documents/Alsop_Home_School_Agreement.pdf

Learning Habit – Equipment

Students are required to have the following items:

- Pencil case, Black or blue pen, Red pen, Pencil, Ruler, Rubber, Highlighter

Year 11 & Year 13 Exams

With only 100 school days remaining before the start of external examinations, I cannot stress enough the importance of your child attending school every day. There is a proven link between regular attendance and strong performance in exams.

At school, we continue to provide a comprehensive support package, including:

- Masterclasses during tutor time,
- High-quality teaching in every lesson, and
- Targeted interventions after school.

There are no surprises: students who attend every day and work the hardest are the ones who achieve their potential and earn the very best outcomes. Please ensure your child attends school every day to fully benefit from these opportunities and maximise their chances of success.

I wish all students the very best of luck and success over the next 100 days.

Reports

We will be sending any mid-year reports via the MyChildatSchool app, email, and as hard copies. However, from 2025, reports will be sent electronically unless families specifically request paper copies due to limited app or email access. Updates on your child's progress will be provided at the year group's parents' evening, with a second report issued in July.

Start of Term – Wednesday 8 January

Once again, I have enclosed an Important Information Sheet that gives you the full details for the start of term in September.

Parent's Evenings

- Thursday 9 January – Year 11 4:00pm – 6:30pm
- Thursday 16 January – Year 12/13 4:00pm – 6:30pm

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Finally, it will be a very busy, full, and tiring half term for students, but all the staff are looking forward to seeing their smiles, positive interactions, and excitement as we welcome them back to our AHS community.

Best wishes,



Peter Mee

Head of School