



Alsom High School

12th June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to introduce myself as the new Executive Principal of Alsom High School.

I am proud and privileged to have taken on the role of leading this wonderful, warm school, that is part of Omega Multi-Academy Trust. I will start full-time in school on Monday 17th June.

I am delighted to have the chance to return to this area, having previously worked in Liverpool schools for 13 years. I have been a Headteacher for nearly 12 years, in three different schools, and I am eager to bring my experience and dedication to this community to ensure the best possible education for your children.

I have started to review information within the school, including feedback from a parental survey indicating requests for improvement in our communication with you. I am committed to addressing this and I aim to enhance our communication efforts accordingly.

Our mission at Alsom High School is 'Achieving Excellence Together' and our definition of excellence is to seek 1% improvements, every day, in all that we do. This applies to both staff and students.

I take the responsibility for caring for your children incredibly seriously. I have high expectations for your children and will look to secure an amazing destination for each of them, in their lives beyond Alsom. I will always expect our staff to treat your children with the same care and dedication they would their own. With my own children, I am honest, unapologetic about asking them to work hard and I always ask for more from them. I believe children become what we expect them to be, so we must encourage them to aim high. One of my favourite quotes is "children's learning is not a rehearsal; they never get a second chance." This philosophy guides my commitment to creating an environment where every child is encouraged to aim high and achieve their best.

I cannot stress enough the importance of doing the basics well, some of the key repeated messages that your children will hear, will be to:

Be Ready: There is a clear link between great attendance and improved life chances for your children. The best place for them is with us, every day, attending 5 lessons. We are aiming for all children to have an attendance rate of 97%+. As with many schools currently, we have a lot of work to do, to work with you as families to improve our school attendance.

Punctuality is a great life skill and we expect students to be onsite and through the gate by 8.25am.

Being equipped well with pens and pencil cases is vital to allow lessons to start smoothly, as is wearing school uniform with pride. I would appreciate your support with these basics.

Be Respectful: One of our key school values is 'respect'. I will always ask our students to simply ensure they do their best, show good manners with staff and visitors (including doing what they are asked, first time, every time) and to make the most of their time here.

Be Safe: I have been impressed with the huge amount of work that is going into keeping your children safe. A key aspect of this is to ensure they are supervised by adults at all times and therefore there will be clear sanctions and support for any students not attending lessons. Internal truancy is never a good option for any child at school and it will be a key priority for us to work closely with any students who make these choices.

I will write to you all again in the near future with some proposed changes for 2024-25, updates on staffing and key dates for your diaries for the rest of this half term, but for now, I would like to wish the best of luck to all our Year 11 and 13 students who are currently completing their public exams over these next few weeks.

We recognise that there is work to be done to achieve our new vision of 'Amazing Alsop'. Building on and celebrating our successes, we are committed to creating a positive and thriving environment. We will roll up our sleeves and work diligently to provide the best possible experience for every child in our care.

I look forward to meeting with you all in person soon.

Take care everyone,

J Kerfoot

James Kerfoot

Executive Principal