



Alsom High School

19th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you welcomed the first edition of our newsletter sent at the beginning of this month and enjoyed reading about all of the wonderful, positive events that have happened across Alsom High School over the last few weeks. Our second edition will be out on Monday!

The past year has presented numerous challenges in education, and we at Alsom have also faced our share as well. However, I am optimistic about the upcoming academic year in September and I look forward to embarking on our journey of improvement with enthusiasm.

As I mentioned in my last letter to you, I recognise that there is much work to be done to restore Alsom to the amazing school we know it can be. The entire team at Alsom are committed to working diligently and rolling up our sleeves to provide the best educational experience for your children, but we will need your support to achieve this.

I have high expectations for our students for the next year and beyond, particularly regarding behaviour and attendance standards, which need significant improvement. We will emphasise to all our students that excellent attendance is crucial for their future success. Being present for five lessons each day is essential, as low attendance can significantly impact life opportunities. We will start to address it and improve it as we aim to eradicate poor attendance.

I know from you and our students that you have rightly raised concerns about staffing gaps we have experienced this year. I can assure you that Omega Multi-Academy Trust has prioritised this issue and our recruitment for next year has been extremely successful. We have some fantastic new staff joining us in the new academic year and we are now fully staffed and ready for a strong start.

I would also like to thank the 122 parents who took the time to provide feedback on the proposed changes to our school day (to meet DFE guidelines) and the changes to the wearing of PE uniform. The majority agreed with the proposed changes to the school day. The proposal for students to wear PE kits to school on PE days was also well-supported. I listened carefully to those of you who had questions or concerns about this change but overall, having listened to staff and parents, the majority definitely felt the reasons were clear enough to proceed. If anyone has any further questions please email us on office@alsophigh.org

Overleaf is a summary of the key information for September.

School Day Times

Start Time: Students must be through the gate by **8:20 am** to reach their lineup positions by 8:25 am. They will be marked late if they are not with their tutors by **8:25 am**.

End Time: The school day ends at **3:00 pm**.

Internal Times:

Timings	Events
8.00 am	Gates open for students arrival
8.00-8.25 am	Breakfast in canteen if required
Start of school day	
8.25-8.30 am	Line ups with uniform checks carried out by Tutors & Year Managers
8.30-8.40 am	Morning tutor times. Registers taken and behavior/attendance/equipment checks.
8.40-9.40 am	P1
9.40-10.40 am	P2
10.40-11.00am	Break (Movement bell to sound at 10.55am)
11.00am-12.00pm	P3
12.00-12.30	Split Lunch Session 1. Three year groups go to lunch whilst 2 year groups are in Tutor time lesson/PSHCE
12.30-1pm	Split lunch Session 2 2 year groups on lunch and 3 year groups in Tutor time.
1pm-2pm	P4
2pm-3pm	P5
End of school day	
3.00pm-4pm	After school booster lessons (known as Period 6) for Yr11 & Yr13 and extra-curricular clubs.

Students attending school in PE Kit

There was strong support for this change and students have responded positively. This decision is based on the need to bring PE back onsite and our current lack of changing room capacity. You may have noticed the new Astroturf Multi-Use Games Area is under construction, and we are also building a cross-fit functional fitness suite which will be a great resource for all students.

The main concerns from parents included questions about winter wear, the ability to stay dry and what exactly the children need to wear, which we will of course monitor. Please note we do have one small set of changing rooms if there were any particular issues then these can be used.

Obviously students must wear their Alsop uniform with pride, whether it is the main uniform or their PE uniform. We will publicise the PE timetable on our website and via the MyChildAtSchool app.

PE Kit Requirements

- **Lower half:** Plain black for affordability (shorts/skirts/skorts/leggings/tracksuits)
- **Top half:** Also branded PE Kit (T-shirt/polo shirt)
- **Additional:** Plain black sport socks, Also branded hoodies/waterproof jackets or plain black school coats

Parental Support Needed

- Ensure your child wears the full school uniform/PE kit, including plain black footwear (our Uniform Expectations Guide is available on our website).
- Make sure your child is equipped and ready to learn with the required stationery in a plain school bag. This includes 1 pencil case, 2 black pens, 1 red pen, 1 pencil, 1 eraser, 1 ruler and 1 scientific calculator.
- Support our efforts to improve punctuality, attendance, and behaviour by reminding your child to be at school by 8:20 am and attend all five lessons daily.
- Ensure your child has their planner every day, which is a key piece of their equipment.
- It is very important that you download the Bromcom parent app "**MyChildAtSchool**" for key communications. This will give you access to your child's reports, timetable, behaviour points, and key messages.

Return to School

We look forward to seeing you all back on **Wednesday 4th September** but please note there will be a staggered return so that we can welcome back our year groups and run through all our routines.

- **Years 7/11/12-** arrival onsite 8.20am
- **Year 10** - arrival on site at 9am
- **Year 9** - arrival on site at 9.45am
- **Year 8** - arrival on site at 11am

PLEASE NOTE: Year 13 only are due back on **Thursday 5th September** at 8:20am.

Key Dates for Diaries

- **End of term for students:** Friday 19th July at 12:15 pm
- **Year 13 Results Day:** 15th August at 9:00 am
- **Year 11 Results Day:** 22nd August at 9:00 am
- **Return to school:** Wednesday 4th September

Finally, I wish you all a happy and safe summer break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September ready and eager to start the new academic year.

Take care,

J Kerfoot

Mr. J Kerfoot