

2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another busy few weeks at Alsop, I wanted to share some of the positive developments across the school and thank you for your continued support. We have made a strong start to the academic year, and there is a growing sense of calm, purpose and pride across the school.

A calmer school focused on learning

We continue to work hard to ensure that every student has the right to **disruption-free learning**. Our expectations around behaviour, punctuality, uniform, and movement around the school are deliberately clear and consistent. It has been particularly pleasing to see the improvement in the quality and presentation of students' books. During leaders' visits to lessons, we are seeing more students taking pride in their work, working independently, and responding positively to the higher expectations we are setting. Our recent external monitoring visit also recognised the progress being made in behaviour and attendance. We know there is still more to do, particularly around attendance for some groups of students, but the direction of travel is positive.

Phone-free school

The launch of our phone pouches has been extremely successful. Students have adapted well, and we are seeing the benefits of a phone-free school throughout the day. Social times feel more positive and students are able to concentrate on learning without the distraction of mobile phones. We would encourage all students to bring a **suitably sized school bag each day**, so their phone and pouch can be stored safely throughout the school day. Where students carry their pouches around in their hands, there is a greater risk of them being dropped, knocked or damaged. Keeping the pouch safely in a school bag also means students have somewhere appropriate to store their books and equipment.

Attendance matters

Attendance continues to improve, but it remains one of our most important priorities. Every day and every lesson missed represents lost learning. Please continue to support us by ensuring your child attends every day unless they are genuinely too unwell to do so, arrives on time and is ready to learn. We will continue to work closely with families where attendance is becoming a concern.

Free School Meals

I also wanted to clarify the arrangements for students who are entitled to Free School Meals. From Monday 12th October, students can choose to use their daily Free School Meal entitlement at **break or lunchtime**. However, the entitlement **does not provide free food at both break and lunch**. If your child chooses to use their allowance at break, please remind them that they will need to be mindful of what remains available to them later in the day.

In terms of our lunch arrangements, it is important that students look after their lunch cards. If they lose them, they will be given a temporary one day pass but they would need to purchase a new card from Student Services at a cost of 25 pence. We want students to make informed choices and ensure that they have enough food for the school day.

Free School Meals – Important Changes from September 2026

If your child was not eligible previously for Free School Meals, they may be eligible now. I would strongly encourage every family receiving Universal Credit to complete the eligibility check, even if you are unsure whether you qualify. It only takes a few minutes. Please follow this link to use the Eligibility Checker here [Check | LGfL FSM](#)

My Child at School App (MCAS) - Parent App

We encourage all parents and carers to download the My Child at School (MCAS) App, as we now use MCAS app for school payments, including lunch payments. Please do not add any further funds to Parent Pay. Information can be found on our website [Parent App | Alsop High School](#)

Open Evening

Our recent Open Evening was a real success. It was fantastic to welcome so many prospective students and their families to Alsop and to showcase our school. I was particularly proud of the students who supported the evening. They were confident, polite, and enthusiastic and represented Alsop brilliantly. Thank you also to our staff for the considerable work that went into making the evening successful.

Culture and community

Students themselves are telling us that the school feels calmer. They have spoken positively about lessons, their relationships with staff, and the increasing range of clubs and opportunities available to them.

Key Dates

- Thursday 15th October – Year 7 Parents Evening (Settling In)
- Friday 16th October – Year 11 Mock Interview Day
- Monday 26th – Friday 30th October – Half term Holidays
- Monday 9th – Friday 20th November – Year 11 & 13 Mock Exams
- Friday 27th November – INSET Day (School Closed)
- Thursday 10th December – Year 11 & 13 Parents Evening
- Friday 18th December – End of full term (School closes at 12:30pm)

We are continuing to improve movement around the site and respond to feedback from students and staff where particular areas become congested. As with all changes, we will explain new arrangements clearly to students before they are introduced.

There is much to be positive about, but we will not become complacent. Our focus is now on making these improvements consistent for every student, in every classroom, every day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Mee
Head of School