



## ALSOP HIGH SCHOOL

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

In preparation for the new academic year, I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you some of my reflections from the past year, alongside some updates to support you and your child in preparation for a positive start for when they return in September on the following dates:

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 7, Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 & Year 13

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 8 & Year 9

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support this past year in ensuring that your child is **Ready to Learn**. As a parent myself to two High School age children; my daughter just finishing Year 7 and my son completing his GCSEs, I fully appreciate the ups and downs of supporting our children through their school years - it's never plain sailing! But when they make a positive contribution or bounce back from a negative, it does make us feel very proud as parents.

There has been plenty from our students to make me as Headteacher feel proud over the course of the last year and you should have received your child's End of Year Report, which has referenced their progress across this year to reflect on. The report specifically references their assessment data, their attendance and if they have been Ready to Learn based on their Achievement & Behaviour Points.

For some, the positives will shine bright, and I hope this has been massively celebrated, but for others it may show that there have been some concerns, but now they're on the right path and taking steps forward – this positive turn and progress should be equally celebrated. For those individuals who have not demonstrated that they are Ready to Learn and / or have not made suitable progress based on their poor attitude, lack of effort and / or poor attendance, this is now an opportunity to reflect and look to the new academic year as an opportunity to improve.

Everyone, regardless of starting point or challenge in life, has the ability to contribute positively and be the best version of themselves – working hard, being kind and fulfilling their potential; true high-performance learning!

I have mentioned to you before, and spoken at length to staff, students and visitors, about the journey we are on and how we are shifting our culture in school. We will continue to work hard to provide the best possible school experience for your child and we are moving in the right direction to being the high-performance school our community deserves. For us to uphold our ambition, it is critical that we continue to work together positively and I would like to thank the overwhelming majority of you for your support, your feedback, your commitment to our culture shift and for working together with us, even when things aren't going well; **Achieving Excellence Together!**

In the same spirit of high-performance, my goal is to constantly reflect, celebrating the positives and focusing on the areas where we can improve. My personal commitment remains clear; if it wouldn't be good enough for my own two children at home, then it isn't good enough for our children here in our school. I shared this commitment with our new Year 7 parents recently and stated that whilst they can hold us to account on my personal commitment, I also have an expectation of your parental responsibility in ensuring that your child meets our basic expectations:

- Ensuring our children attend school on-time every day is our parental responsibility.
- Ensuring our children are wearing the correct uniform every day is our parental responsibility.
- Ensuring our children take responsibility for their actions and supporting school with consequences such as detentions when they make wrong choices is our parental responsibility.
- Engaging positively and respectfully with our child's school and staff is our parental responsibility.

### Preparation for September:

As we prepare for September, and as referenced in my previous letter to you, a key area of focus for us will continue to be on our high standards and expectations of all students in demonstrating that they are **Ready to Learn** and upholding our **Alsop Way Learning Habits**, independently or with support from our committed and passionate staff.

The overwhelming majority of our students uphold our Learning Habits consistently, with over 1000 students (70%) in school achieving more than 200 Achievement Points this past year and over 900 students (65%) having less than 10 Behaviour Points and over 500 of those students (35%) having **ZERO** Behaviour Points.

We will continue to support all students in demonstrating our Learning Habits consistently and, through the launch of our **House System**, those students who are consistently upholding our Alsop Way Learning Habits and contributing positively to our school community will be recognised and rewarded with a **HUGE** positive spotlight on them as a model Alsop Student.

Let me be clear, however, that any student who refuses to follow and uphold our Alsop Way Learning Habits will be subject to sanctions to ensure that the overwhelming majority do not have their learning impacted upon negatively.

I encourage you to discuss the key points below related to our Learning Habits with your child in preparation for September, especially if we have already shared concerns with you over the course of this past year, as we will have a positive and relentless focus on each area so we can maximise learning, reduce negativity and improve our culture.

Learning Habit	How to contribute to a positive culture
<b>A</b> ttitude to learning is positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Always try your best, stay on task and contribute positively to lessons.</li><li>• Uphold our school rules on <b>mobile devices – these should not be seen/heard during the school day</b>. If seen/heard they will be confiscated and returned to students at the end of the day.</li></ul>
<b>L</b> isten and act on instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respond positively to instructions from <b>ALL</b> staff; <b>first time and every time</b>.</li><li>• Do not answer back, ignore or challenge instructions from members of staff.</li></ul>
<b>S</b> mart uniform and correct equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Always wear the full correct uniform and with a sense of pride; <b>look smart &amp; work smart</b>.</li><li>• No blue shirts – our uniform is a white shirt and is to be worn with our school jumper and blazer.</li><li>• Appropriate footwear, <b>not sports / leisure trainers</b>, as detailed in our <b>Uniform Expectations</b> on our website and attached to this letter.</li><li>• No caps or hats to be worn at any time and <b>all outerwear removed before</b> entering lessons.</li></ul>
<b>O</b> n time; punctuality and deadlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All students should attend school <b>EVERY DAY</b> and aim for 100% attendance.</li><li>• All students should be on site and at <b>Morning Line Up by the 8:25am bell</b> – no exceptions.</li><li>• Move quickly to <b>every lesson on the bell without delay</b>; be on-time and Ready to Learn.</li></ul>
<b>P</b> olite and respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate polite &amp; respectful behaviour to other students and staff</li><li>• <b>Be proud of and look after our school</b> – put litter in the bin and look after <b>YOUR</b> learning environment.</li><li>• Respect everyone's right to learn; do not disrupt the learning of others.</li></ul>

### Mobile phones / electronic devices:

As a parent, I fully understand that you may want your child to have a mobile phone so you can make sure that they're safe on the way to and from school. I'm sure you can appreciate, however, the distraction they can cause in school and the potential for misuse with social media and links to any concerns or issues outside of school.

There is plenty of research linked to the benefits of restricting mobile phone usage in school, including improved academic outcomes and improved mental health, with a recent report from UNESCO, the UN's education, science and culture agency stating, "*Mobile devices can cause distraction, risk pupil privacy and lead to cyber-bullying.*" A number of countries are even looking to enforce restrictions further to prevent disruptions to learning: [Mobile phone ban to stop school disruptions article](#)

At Alsop, a growing number of our students have been wearing Air Pods or walking around school on their phone this past term, often presenting an excuse as to why they feel it's valid. Our school rule has always been clear on mobile phones and linked devices such as Air Pods: **they should not be seen or heard during the school day unless**

***under the direct instruction from a member of staff.*** We will continue to uphold this from September and I appreciate your support in discussing this with your child and helping us to minimise disruptions to learning.

**Electric scooters:**

You will have no doubt seen the increasing numbers of e-scooters around our City and we are aware that some of our students now own e-scooters. Although it is perfectly legal to buy, sell and own an e-scooter, it is not currently legal to use them on roads, pavements or cycle lanes. The only legal users of e-scooters in public spaces are those who are over 18, with a driving licence, and who are using the official City of Liverpool e-scooters.

An increasing number of students have been travelling to school on e-scooters, with some even trying to charge them up inside school, and I am aware of one road collision on the way to school which, thankfully, wasn't fatal. If your child owns an e-scooter, tell them to keep it at home as, in addition to the legalities above, ***e-scooters are not permitted on the school site.*** This article from Merseyside Police offers further details: [Advice on using e-scooters](#)

Merseyside Police have stated that they will be enforcing the above on random visits to school and any e-scooters which are brought onto the school site will be confiscated and parents contacted to collect directly from school.

**Parental contact and communication with school:**

Positive communication between school and home is vital in reinforcing to students that we are a team with the same goal of supporting your child's academic and personal development; Achieving Excellence Together. With this in mind, it is absolutely critical that we have up to date contact information for you and other linked adults for your child, especially in cases of emergency or where we need to urgently speak with you.

At the start of the new academic year we will be launching our new school website, which will provide you with an up to date overview across all areas of school life, and a new Information System, Bromcom, which will also include a new Parent App called *My Child At School*. We will be gathering / updating your contact information as this is rolled out and encourage all of you to register for the App. Most importantly, however, is the need to have up to date phone numbers for adults who can be contacted.

Likewise, I appreciate that there are times you may need to contact us and share information with us regarding your child or to arrange a meeting to discuss a concern. Our staff all have specific timetables / duties during the day and are not always personally available to see you if you were to arrive at the school reception without an appointment. In cases of emergency, we would, of course, have a member of our Team speak with you, but for general areas of discussion, all meetings must be booked in advance directly with the member of staff.

In addition to the above, and to manage your expectation and to balance workload within school regarding communication, please see details of our response times below:

- Any email, phone call or letter to school will be acknowledged and responded to within two working days.
- Any urgent safeguarding matter will be responded to on the same day / picked up immediately.
- Staff are not expected to return calls / emails outside of their working hours, including weekends and holidays, and contact will be picked up as per the two working days outlined above.

Our school office is open from 8:00am to 4:30pm each day and any calls / messages taken by the office staff will be shared with the appropriate member of staff and you will receive a response as per the above, with the office staff reminding you of this to, again, manage your expectation.

As always, I trust I can count on your full parental support in all of the areas referenced and I look forward to welcoming all students back to school, Ready to Learn, in September. The next steps on our school improvement journey are clear and I am extremely optimistic for the year ahead.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to us ***Achieving Excellence Together.***

Yours faithfully,



Paul Masher  
Headteacher