



20 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of this half-term, I am pleased to share with you some important information regarding the leadership of Also High School.

After a national recruitment process, and an intensive two-day interview process held on 26th and 29th April, Trustees and Governors have approved the appointment of Mr James Kerfoot as Executive Principal for Also High School and Omega Multi-Academy Trust. Mr Kerfoot is a highly experienced and successful headteacher, having led three schools across the North-West, including Liverpool. Since his appointment, we have been working with his current employer to secure a start-date as early as possible. We are delighted to announce that Mr Kerfoot will be starting at Also High School on 1st June 2024, so will be leading Also from the start of the next half-term. Mr Kerfoot will be in contact with all parents very soon to introduce himself and his vision for Also High School. Myself and colleagues from Omega Multi-Academy trust will remain at Also to support Mr Kerfoot throughout the remainder of this year and into the next academic year, to ensure a smooth transition.

Positive Behaviour – Update

As we draw towards the end of the first term since the implementation of the new Positive Behaviour system, we have reflected on some of the successes, and on areas where we still need to make some improvements.

The focus of Positive Behaviour is to ensure every student is supported within an environment that aims to get the best from them, and supports them in being successful. It is built on the idea of Positive Regard: ensuring students can expect all staff at Also to **care for them, support them, encourage them** to be the best that they can be, but also **challenge them** to work hard and behave well. Within the **Guide for Parents**, that was shared on 16th April, the Positive Behaviour system was explained, and since its launch, Positive Behaviour has seen the vast majority of students engaging positively. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those students and their parents for their support. We hope you have found the planner useful in seeing the number of reward stamps your child has received, and used this to talk with your child about all the things that are going well. Our Rewards Shop opened for the first-time last week, with each year group exchanging their reward stamps for a selection of items, ranging from sweet treats to gift vouchers of up to £10. We continue to work with students to stock the shop with the items that they feel would be of value and welcome any ideas our students may have. Please continue to support the school by ensuring your child has their planner with them, every day. Not only will this support them in collecting reward stamps, but it allows you to see how well they are doing during the course of each week.

One of the biggest challenges we have in school currently, is **lesson avoidance**. There remain too many students who attend school, but choose to avoid lessons. We totally understand that some students have experienced significant levels of staff absence during the course of this year. Within the context of a national shortage of teachers, Also has found it difficult since September, to ensure the school is fully staffed and, as a Trust, we are doing everything we can to rapidly improve things so that your children get a better deal when they come to school. I am pleased to inform you that, every week, we are securing more and more excellent staff, and seeking to secure an early start to their contracts, without waiting until September.



Alsom High School

We have appointed a number of staff during this term and in addition, this half term we have appointed the following new staff, some of whom have already commenced work with our students:

- Ms R Newman – Teacher of Maths
- Mr M Skilton – Teacher of Maths
- Ms K Musgrove – Teacher of Maths
- Mr T Langton – Teacher of Maths
- Mr S Hinks – Teacher of Maths
- Ms R Olumekin – Teacher of Maths
- Mr R Southern-Cannon – Teacher of Science
- Mr N Harvey – Teacher of RE
- Ms L Mejia – Teacher of Spanish
- Ms A Morris – Teacher of Spanish
- Ms Y Marrow – Teacher of Art
- Ms J McCormick – Teacher of Technology
- Ms J Smith – Head of Performing Arts
- Ms V Wright – Head of Geography
- Ms J Woods – Teacher of Geography
- Mr J Scott – Teacher of History
- Ms I Hills – Teacher of Social Sciences

I am sure you will join us in welcoming these colleagues to Alsom High School.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of staff who have worked to support Alsom students throughout this year so far. There is no doubt, that this has been a challenging year for Alsom students and staff alike, linked to leadership changes, staff vacancies and staff absence. Every day, our staff do their utmost to support our students. The Positive Behaviour system is rooted in positive regard, in mutual respect and in the care for every individual. Whilst a minority of students choose to conduct themselves in a way that does not promote care or mutual respect, the vast majority of our students do. I know our staff really appreciate this.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you an enjoyable bank-holiday and look forward to welcoming back our students and staff back to school on Monday 3rd June, and to welcoming Mr Kerfoot, our new Executive Principal, to his new role.

Yours faithfully

Mr C Wilcocks
Chief Executive Officer