



# ALSOP HIGH SCHOOL



Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we have completed the first week of our new academic year, I wanted to share with you some of our developments, remind you of some key information and update you on some upcoming events.

### First impressions:

We were delighted to welcome our students back to school on Monday and I had the pleasure of leading assemblies throughout the day to every year group. My assembly was a positive message focusing on the importance of being **Ready to Learn**, our **Alsop Way Learning Habits** and how every student has the opportunity to make a new first impression as it is the start of a new year. With regards to making a positive first impression, our **new Year 7 students have made a fantastic first impression** and have impressed staff with their positive attitudes in lessons as well as being polite and respectful to staff and each other; keep it up Year 7, you've made a great start!

As shared in our assemblies, **students are expected to demonstrate our Alsop Way Learning Habits 100% of the time** and by doing so they lay the foundations for them to achieve both academically and socially. We recognise this may be a challenge for some and we will support every student to successfully uphold our Learning Habits every lesson and every day, as we have high standards and expectations of and for your child. To help you to support your child to uphold our Learning Habits, a reminder for you that they are:

<b>A</b> ttitude to learning is positive	<b>L</b> isten & act on instruction	<b>S</b> mart uniform & correct equipment	<b>O</b> n time – punctuality & deadlines	<b>P</b> olite & respectful
------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------	-----------------------------

### Attendance Matters:

As I highlighted to you last year, our number one School Improvement Priority is, and continues to be, **attendance to school**. Excellent school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best opportunity to be successful in school by accessing our knowledge rich curriculum, by building positive relationships with others and by connecting with, and feeling valued in, our school community. The aim is to attend 100% of the time, as students who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and do less well academically. Research also suggests that students who attend school regularly could also be at less risk of getting involved in anti-social behaviour or crime.

A huge factor alongside attendance, and highlighted above in our Learning Habits, is **for students to be on time and punctual** to school and lessons to maximise their learning time. If your child is late to school or lessons for **15 minutes each day, this adds up to approximately 10 days lost over the academic year, or 50 lessons!** Miss Bruns will be sharing an individual Attendance Matters update with parents this Friday and if you have any concerns, or require additional support, please contact our Attendance Office or your child's Form Tutor; we are here to support you.

### Enrichment and Personal Development opportunities:

Over the course of the last year, I have been reviewing our enrichment offer in school and the Personal Development opportunities available for your child. I believe, as a Headteacher and as a dad, that **the personal development of our children is just as important as their academic development** and I am delighted to share with you that we have launched our most extensive after school Enrichment offer ever with over 50 activities timetabled across the week. Further details can be found by accessing this link to our school website: [Enrichment Timetable](#)

Students will be rewarded Achievement Points for regular attendance to Enrichment activities and their commitment can also contribute towards their Alsop Passport and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) which we are re-launching across the school under the steer of our newly appointed DofE Co-ordinator, Mrs Woodruff.

The DofE programme we have developed will provide **ALL** students in Year 9 with the opportunity to **complete the Bronze DofE Award**, as we have structured this within their timetabled PE lessons, and more information will be shared with Year 9 families following the upcoming launch assembly to students in the next fortnight.

Alsop High School, Queens Drive, Liverpool, L4 6SH T 0151 235 1200 F 0151 521 1044 E [office@alsophigh.org.uk](mailto:office@alsophigh.org.uk)

In addition to the Bronze Award programme, Year 10 students will have the opportunity to sign up for the Silver DofE Award and our Sixth Form students will have the opportunity to complete the prestigious Gold DofE Award. **The DofE programme provides so many fantastic opportunities to support your child's Personal Development**, as well as providing them with a nationally recognised qualification which is respected by employers and further / higher educational institutes. More information on the benefits of doing DofE can be found on the DofE website here: [DofE Parent Info](#)

As part of our broad and ambitious curriculum, I am passionate about the Creative and Performing Arts and believe that **ALL** children have the right to access opportunities to find or develop their talents. Our great City has a proud history of music making and I am delighted to share with you that we are launching a programme which provides **ALL Year 7 Students with a fully funded block of Music tuition** outside of their timetabled Music lessons. Mrs Potter will be sharing more details with Year 7 families in the coming weeks, as well as information on how students in other Year groups can sign up for Peri Music lessons.

#### **HM Queen Elizabeth II and school closure on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September:**

The news of the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II was saddening to hear last Thursday evening. Her Majesty was such a beacon of strength and hope in challenging times from WW2 to the Covid Pandemic and she always conducted herself with dignity and a strong sense of duty. What always stood out for me, however, was her commitment to human connection and, for this, she will be sadly missed. This is a pivotal time in our nation's history and we will continue to share information with our students over the coming weeks in our PDR sessions with Form Tutors.

As shared over the weekend, **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September has been declared as a Bank Holiday** to observe the funeral of Her Majesty and **all schools and colleges will be closed on this day**. We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, Ready to Learn and on-time for prompt 8:25am Line Ups.

#### **Open Evening - Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 (4:30-7:00pm):**

We are looking forward to opening our doors to our community for our Open Evening, although this year will be very special as it's our first on-site Open Evening in three years and my first as Headteacher, following a virtual event last year.

To support the time to set up, **school will close at 1:45pm on this day**, with students leaving the school site at the end of Period 4. A number of students have been chosen / volunteered to be Alsop Ambassadors and help out on the evening – your child will bring a permission slip home for you to sign this week if they are involved.

Although the evening is typically targeted towards our Primary School families, I appreciate that you have had limited opportunities in recent years to come on-site and meet our staff. With this in mind, **all families across all Year groups are welcome to attend**; it will be our pleasure to welcome you on-site and my personal pleasure to meet you, and have the chance to speak with many of you I've yet to meet. We will be showcasing what makes Alsop such a special place with activities in all subject areas, our staff on hand to speak to you outside of a typical parents' evening and complimentary food and refreshments will also be available in our Jamieson Restaurant. I look forward to seeing you there!

#### **Governing Body – Parent Governor Elections:**

A letter from our Trustees will be circulated to parents this coming week detailing a Parent Governor opportunity / vacancy on our newly reformed Governing Body. The role of a Parent Governor is to bring a parent perspective and maintain a link between governance and the parent community in the best interests of our students and school.

#### **Other upcoming events:** (individual letters / invites shared with parents & carers in each Year group)

- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September: Year 11 - Steps to Success Evening (5:00pm-6:15pm)
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September: Year 7 - Meet the Form Tutor (4:00pm-7:00pm)
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October: Year 13 - Steps to Success Evening (5:00pm-6:15pm)

Finally, I would like to thank you all in advance for your support this academic year as we continue on our journey to excellence and I look forward to working with you and **Achieving Excellence Together**. I saw a number of quotes over the weekend from HM Queen Elizabeth II and I believe this one best reflects our journey: **"It's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change."**

Yours sincerely,



Paul Masher  
Headteacher