



Headteacher's Letter

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the last Headlines of this academic year. We hope you enjoy our usual offerings as well as our new house supplement. With so much good news we felt we simply needed more room!

The magazine clearly reflects the hard work of all at the school but also the unstinting support of you as parents and carers. Without this we could never do so much for all our students.

For me, the highlight has to be the Ofsted visit but it is the daily highlights of excellent lessons, friendly staff and students and a determination to achieve which makes Aldridge what it is, a place committed to ...Achieving excellence together.. lived and breathed everyday.

Mr D. Mountney BSc MA

Minimum Staging, Maximum Performance!

Preparation for the next Aldridge School production is in full swing. Jesus Christ Superstar, which opens on 16th July, looks set to be another fantastic vehicle for our talented actors and musicians.

The show, which presents an alternative viewpoint on Jesus's final week, has a large cast ranging from years 7-13.

Judas, played by George Caulton, is concerned that Jesus has gone too far and that his followers can't see the truth – that Jesus is "just a man" and that his relationship with Mary (Natalie Ashcroft) is inappropriate. Jesus (Jon Flood) and his entourage, including Harry Gregory as Peter and Will Young as Simon Zealotes, enter Jerusalem on a tide of optimism. However, Judas offers to hand Jesus over to the scheming High Priests (Andrew Taysum and Scott Warrilow) whilst Pilate (Josh Ford) has terrible dreams of troubles ahead. As the story unfolds, Jesus faces demands from believers and demonstrations from detractors like Herod (Shivinder Ahluwalia-Timmings) which almost drive him to distraction.

Some of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd-Webber's most memorable tunes, from dynamic whole cast dance routines to haunting solo pieces, feature in the performance and promise to have audiences clapping along as well as bringing tears to the eyes.

Costume is deliberately timeless and in a departure from our previous performances, this one uses an absolute minimum of set and stage furniture but relies instead on creative use of digital photography (thanks to ShatteredLens) and lighting to create a sense of setting and atmosphere.



However, with a superb ensemble, a strong supporting chorus, a gifted orchestra and a dedicated backstage crew, I am sure will find that the performance is a masterpiece!

Pupils Hit The Right Note For Former Teacher

Loyal ex-teacher Roland Holland celebrated the 30th anniversary of handing out a special trophy for talented musicians at Aldridge School.

Mr Holland, who was one of the three first teachers at the school when it opened in 1957, has handed out the same trophy for the past 30 years.

Over the past three decades Mr Holland, who retired in 1983 from teaching French and Music, has presented the award to the most talented senior and junior musicians in an annual music competition.



He said: "Aldridge has always had a very good reputation for its high standard of music and listening to the performers at this year's concert was, as always, a delight.

"In fact I was thrilled to be joined on the judging panel by two former pupils Richard Sidaway, now a West End musical theatre actor and singer, and Jane Marlow, a successful musical director, as well as Neville Ellis, who has given a lifetime of service to Aldridge Youth Theatre."

This year Jack Measham was awarded the Roland Holland Senior Award for his performance of Tarantella, by W.H. Squire, performed on the cello and Jonathan So won the Junior Award for his piano playing of a Berceuse by Frank Bridge.

Headteacher David Mountney said: "It was a real honour having Roland present this trophy and this year was particularly special because it was his 30th anniversary. We were also delighted to welcome back two former pupils, Richard Sidaway and Jane Marlow, who have enjoyed hugely successful musical careers after leaving Aldridge School."

Year 7 Netballers in Black Country School Games

On Friday 28th June 2013, the Year 7 Netball Squad from Aldridge represented Walsall in the Black Country School Games. This is a festival with teams from Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley and Wolverhampton qualifying for the event and then competing against each other. Aldridge beat Ellowes Hall (Dudley) 11-0 in their first match with excellent interceptions and passing contributing to the team's performance.

In their second game, the girls came up against tough opposition from Wolverhampton Girls High School and unfortunately lost 5-2. The squad then played Ellowes Hall Sports College (Dudley) and bounced back to win 8-0. They qualified for the semi-finals where they played the winners of the other group and played the best netball the girls had played all day.

Unfortunately, a lack of strength in such a physical game showed and they lost 5-4. The girls then played for 3rd place, again against Wolverhampton Girls but a lack of tournament experience and fitness showed and they lost 5-1.

The girls should be extremely proud of their efforts and if they continue to go to netball clubs we will build on this performance next year.



Brazilian Jiu Jitsu

Tadhg Cargill, 713S, competed in the National Brazilian Jiu jitsu competition at the NEC Birmingham on 18th and 19th May. Despite being ill the previous week, he was determined to compete. He fought his way through to finish 3rd in his weight category.

BARR BULLETIN

We have had another exceptionally busy summer term in Barr House and there have been many celebrations. Welcome to Miss Tame, our new Pastoral Support Assistant, who joined us in January. She has done an excellent job with getting to know the pupils and I wish her every success in Barr House.

We have tremendous team spirit in Barr House! Despite us being in fourth position on the score board, we will never lose our spirit. This term there have been many fine performances in the sporting events and we are very proud to state that we have maintained our excellent record of bringing out a full team for each sporting competition. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every pupil who has given something a go, whatever their ability and natural flair for the sport in question. A particular mention needs to go to Hannah Williams in 1071B and Luke Webster in 989B, for all their hard work with helping us to organise some of the events. Of course, we cannot forget the help provided by Barr House form tutors and Senior Tutor, Miss Gill, with the organisation of the inter-house sports events. Well done to all!

I would like to make a special 'thank you' to pupils responsible to Barr House Council and the School Council. You have contributed to some big decisions in Aldridge School and you have encouraged others to understand the meaning of 'pupil voice'.

Attendance in Barr has been excellent this year, but particularly this term. As it stands, 979B currently have the highest attendance percentage for the term at 95.6%, closely followed by 854B with 95.4% and 1024B with 95%. Current figures place the overall percentage for Barr attendance (summer term) at 94.3%, with 94.1% overall this year. A tremendous effort has been made by pupils and parents to ensure their children are in school, having the best education they can receive.

Special congratulations and praise should be awarded to the following pupils:

765B: Troy Myles – maths challenge 722B: Corey Walker-Watkins – 100% attendance this term, Hamza Ahmed – academic success in history and work for maths booster
854B: Nathan Argyle – sporting achievements, Daniel Heath – consistently high academic achievements, Jaegan Dhillon – 100% attendance

this term 847B: Nathan Walker-Watkins – 100% attendance this term, Zohra Ahmed – sporting contribution, Eleanor Cooper – sporting contribution and academic success/effort.

979B: Alex Southan – sports week challenge, Holly Osborne – Jesus Christ Superstar, Tendai Chigadora, Charlotte Cocker and Iqra Hussain – 100% attendance this term 926B: I would like to give a very special thanks to Anna Parker, Dominic Webster and Chloe Allsop for their involvement with raising money for the Ben Sambrook charity appeal. Imogen Burgess – subject awards for geography and science, William Copson – subject awards for maths and ICT, Alastair Reynolds – subject awards for Religious Studies, Adam Nethercot in English, Billy Ray Moon-Taylor – 100% attendance this term. Mr. Neal (form tutor) has also added that there have been awards outside of school for Dominic Webster with his Dressage (horse show) and for Tom Riley for Walsall Football Club 989B Holly Evans – consistent sporting contributions both School and house, Sam Lee – outstanding effort within school competitions, group and individual basis, Luke Webster – consistent sporting contributing both School and house.

1024B: Alex Moore – sports activities and assemblies, Jason Lee – subject award for Economics 1071B: Waqar Mahmood – 100% attendance this term, Hannah Williams – helping to organise sports competitions, Charlie Thorn – work with Carnegie and head Teacher postcards, Courtney Cure – improved attendance

On a final note, I would like to take this opportunity to say a fond 'Farewell' to Barr House and to Aldridge School. I have been fortunate enough to have worked with a fantastic team in Barr House – fabulous teachers, highly dedicated professionals who have demonstrated care and support to the pupils in their form groups. I would like to say that I have enjoyed every single aspect of my involvement as a Head of House and the pupils have been an absolute privilege to work amongst.

I wish teachers, parents and pupils every happiness and success for the future. The very best wishes go to my colleague Mrs Parton, who will be my replacement for Barr House, as of September 2013. I am sure she will do an excellent job and Barr House will make her proud!

Daniels News

This has been a busy and rewarding year with many pupils showing their commitment to studies by gaining large numbers of merits, commendations and achievement certificates for their work. We look forward to pupil success in the summer examinations.

Attendance

The attendance figures for the house are impressive this year, 93%, which includes 30 pupils with 100% attendance for the school year. This shows the commitment that pupils have to their education and also the support they have from home.

House Achievements

We have enjoyed success in a number of house competitions including:

Dance, Rugby, Cross Country (Boys and Girls) and Rounders (Junior and Senior)

A notable achievement was the Dance Competition which Daniels House have not won for the last 18 years.

These successes have put us in contention for the Inter-house



championship this year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Maddie Turner and Hayley Mitchell for their outstanding contribution to House activities this year.



Thank You

Many thanks and best wishes for our departing senior house members who have been excellent in their respective roles this year:

Chloe Law – Head Girl
Sam Pickering – Head Boy
Jenny Berrill – Sport Captain
Alex Hewitt – Sport Captain

We hope you all have an enjoyable summer break and pupils return to school with high ambitions for another successful year.

Singing Success

Jessica Barnes-Wright 9.05D is persuing her interest and talent in singing.

She has performed at St Pauls Cathedral and recorded a song for charity. The track is on iTunes (God Bless the Child-Jessica's Voice) and further recordings and live performances are scheduled.

Jessica is keen to help disadvantaged young people; any money gained from her singing and recordings is donated to local charities including a football community program which her step father is involved with.

We wish Jessica well with her venture to achieve a future career in music.

LINLEY LOWDOWN

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF HOUSE

I would firstly like to thank everyone for their support over this academic year parents/carers, Form Tutors and Mrs Amos. I hope we can continue to work together to support everyone in Linley House and continue to make Linley House the 'Pride of Aldridge School'.

Mr G Morton
Head of Linley House

GOOD NEWS

Well done to Sam Richards 967L - He caught a 15 pound Carp

Well done to Rebecca Barley and Priya Budhi 1016L - Who achieved their bronze for the Duke of Edinburgh awards. They had to spend a weekend with other students map reading, orienteering and camping; being completely self-sufficient for two days in the peak district.

Congratulations to everyone in Linley House who secured a part in the up coming school production of Jesus Christ Superstar. I am sure it will be great, Break a Leg!

HOUSE ACHIEVEMENTS

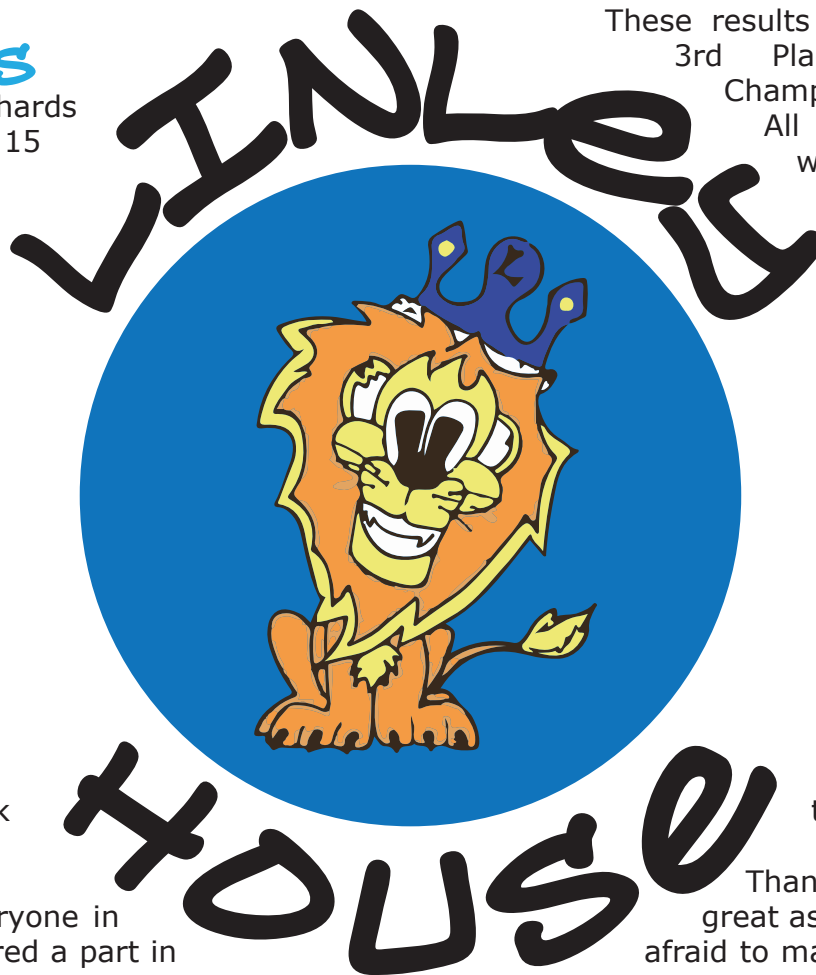
Well done to the hundreds of pupils who have achieved their House Badge and head teacher's Certificate this year. If I was to write down every name on here it would fill the one page we have to fill.

SPORTING EVENTS

Linley is working its way up the table. Hopefully we may even come 3rd this year. This term we have finished:

Cross Country - 3rd
Intermediate Rounders - 2nd
Junior Rounders - 4th
Senior Rounders - 3rd
Senior Cricket - 2nd
Junior Cricket - 3rd
Junior Tennis - 2nd
Senior Tennis - 3rd

These results put Linley House into 3rd Place on the House Championship leader board. All we need to do now is win the Sports Day again to keep us there. Well done Linley House!



WITH THANKS

Thank you to 763L for our cultural assembly about how the United Kingdom became so diverse and what makes it the country we know and love today. Great acting guys keep up the good work.

Thank you to 967L for your great assembly about not being afraid to make mistakes and trying something new. A great quote to remember "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new." — Albert Einstein

Thank you very much to 9.60L who gave us a great assembly on E-Safety. Remember guys if you would not like your parents, teachers or other adults to read it don't post it.

If you have any good news or information you want featured in the Linley Lowdown then please let Mr Morton or Mrs Amos know.

SCOTT HOUSE

The summer term has seen many of our students' achievements being celebrated and Mrs Walters and I are very proud of them all. Certificates of achievements, praise postcards and gift vouchers have already been delivered to many of our successful students. Many more rewards are being prepared for the final assembly on the 15th July, which we are really looking forward to. The assembly will be the usual Scott House celebration and will recognise our students who have made us proud.

SCOTT PREFECTS

In this the final term, we would like to thank our Head Boy Alistair Allen and Head Girl Charlotte Fairclough for being excellent role models to our younger students. They have contributed brilliantly to all of the Scott House events this year and supported and led several house events, such as special assemblies and House Council meetings. Chloe Ward also deserves a special mention for being a fantastic Sports Captain helping to organise and motivate our sporting challenge in the Inter-house Championship.

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

Our other senior prefects also deserve a lot of credit for the way they have supported Scott House. In particular Rachael Wharram, Vanessa Lyne, Jessica Page and Abbie Lewis with the website and the reward assemblies. All of them have been fantastic in their final year, their hard work and enthusiasm for all things Scott has been much appreciated and we wish them all the very best for the future.

SCOTT STARS AND NOTABLE EVENTS

It has been a fantastic year in terms of our Scott Stars, of them being read and Adore, the boys of Webster's, and in particular Abbie, Miles, and Emily, who started dance organised, Charlotte, the pieces, led the inter-house dance competitions. A lot of high has been brought to the Scott House website team who interviewed the Headteacher and asked him some really tricky questions, which they then posted online.

SPORTING STARS

This year there has been a sense of more sporting achievements by students in Scott House that we are very close to winning the Inter-house championship. However, with Inter-house, a strong supporting chorus, a major highlight for us dedicated back stage crew, was the Swimming Gala where Scott won all three trophies. All of the team worked really hard on the night but special praise goes to Anna Walker, Chloe Weideman, Christian Alford, Taryn Holdcroft and Jessica Simpson for a wonderful performance.

Throughout their time at Aldridge School the following students have been amazing in their support of Scott House: Mike Lloyd, Luke Pedley and Charlotte Pardington. We wish them all the best for the future and appreciate all their efforts in making Scott House that little better.

Overall, it has been an amazing year of hard work and triumphs for many of our students and we would like to thank each and every one of you for your outstanding commitment to Scott House. Mrs Walters and I are looking forward to September when new challenges and new triumphs await us all.

Mr Mendham



Girls KS3 and KS4

Walsall Schools

Gymnastics Competition

On Thursday 13th June, Aldridge entered two teams into the Walsall Schools Gymnastics competition: one for Key Stage 3 and one for KS4. Both teams performed well and should be proud of their performances.

The Key Stage 3 team was comprised of Natasha Hodson (Year 7) Jennifer Easthope (Year 7), India Chandarh (Year 7), Kirsty Monaghan (Year 7) and Priya Johal (Year 7). The team came 3rd in their age group and had the difficult task of being the first to perform in the whole competition.

The Key Stage 4 team comprised of Lydia Evans (Year 10), Jasminder Ahluwalia-Timmins (Year 10), Mice Bourne (Year 8), Bonnie Holmes (Year 8) and Holly Merrick (Year 7) and came second in their age group.

A special mention should go to Lydia Evans, Jennifer Easthope and Natasha Hodson for being awarded some of the highest scores in their age group, well done!

Sommerfest der deutschen Sprache

Perhaps it could be called the German teachers' equivalent of certain well-known garden parties, but the venue was leafy Belgravia and the German Ambassador's residence. Together with 200 other Germanists, I was invited by the British Council to attend the German Teacher Awards, an occasion on which to celebrate German teaching and the cultural links between Britain and Germany.

We are fortunate at Aldridge still to host a German Language Assistant each year, and these young people, often students, bring an enthusiasm and love of their language and culture which can only inspire our students. After a welcome from the ambassador, Herr Georg Boomgarten, and a keynote speech by Ms Elizabeth Truss MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education and Childcare, awards for outstanding cultural links in education were presented. We then had an opportunity to chat to the cultural attachés from the embassies of German-speaking countries as well as to colleagues from schools throughout Britain.

We enjoyed traditional German food (sausages and Sauerkraut did indeed feature in the meal!). It was a privilege to be part of this celebration of a language which has long been my passion.

Miss Brée

Queen's Badge

Lewis Easthope joined Boys' Brigade at the age of 5 and over several years he has worked towards all of his badges. He gained his President's Badge two years ago and on completion began working towards his Queen's Badge, the highest accolade.

To achieve this award Lewis has attend several courses aimed at mentoring and tutoring younger people as well as build on self improvement. He has carried out voluntary work around the local community and mentored in school. Lewis also had to improve or learn a new skill and is now a qualified scuba diver! He was presented with his



badge on Sunday 30th June by Her Majesty's Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands Mr David Brandnock.

Well done Lewis.

Summer Reading

Wonder by R.J. Palacio, which was recently shortlisted for the Carnegie Children's Book Award, is a fantastic story about a boy named August (Auggie), who was born with a facial disfigurement. The story looks at Auggie's life as he starts school. This is a thought provoking novel that covers important issues such as courage, discrimination, peer pressure and empathy. Throughout the novel Auggie shows tremendous courage, and I love his sense of humour and resilience. This book should be read by all teenagers as it highlights body image, bullying, and the way we should treat others.

Recommended by Mrs Kaur

Leadership Challenge

The 4th July came a day early for a group of Year 12 students who were invited to hear Brigadier General John T. Quintas speak in the English Speaking Union Debate Challenge Leadership event in London.

General Quintas is the Senior Defence Official and Defence Attaché in the United Kingdom. His flying experience includes operational assignments in F-111 and F-15E aircraft and service in Afghanistan. His staff positions include Military Aide to the President of the United States of America. He spoke honestly and inspiringly about his experience of leadership throughout his meteoric career, one of his greatest challenges he admitted was managing his two very young daughters! Bravely, as a confessed introvert, answering questions from the floor, General Quintas covered a wide range of related topics stressing the importance of integrity through "the grandmother test" and the concept of leadership as service. After the event General Quintas, joined Aldridge students for refreshments and very generously answered more of their questions. Students agreed that they had enjoyed a unique and inspiring opportunity to question such an accomplished and effective leader whose natural modesty belied his outstanding achievements.



The event was hosted by the English Speaking Union in collaboration with the American Embassy and particular thanks go to Alex Just of the ESU and Sue Wedlake from the Embassy for their invitation.

Dedicated Students Clock Up Years Without Time Off

Seven students at Aldridge School have clocked up a total of 35 years attendance with each not taking a single day off school.

The Year 11 pupils, who are now on study leave, were presented with awards for their 100 percent attendance during their entire time at the Tynings Lane school.

David Mountney, headteacher, said in his 33-years' teaching he'd never come across so many students in one single year group to have never had a day off school.

He said: "They are a credit to our school and should be proud of themselves for achieving 100 per cent attendance since they joined in Year 7. I hope all their hard work will pay off in their GCSE exams."



The students along with all their fellow pupils in Year 11 have now left school to take up exam study leave.

They were presented with their awards, alongside other students, at the school's annual Year 11 suit day, when students mark their last day in school by donning suits and dresses for their last assembly and say their farewells to those who aren't returning to the sixth form.

Enjoy your Summer Holiday See you in September!

Aldridge School - A Science College

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