



Headteacher's Letter

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first Headlines of the 2009-10 academic year. We have had a busy and very enjoyable start to the term. Here are some of the highlights:

Our best ever GCSE results: 75% of our students getting 5 or more A*-C grades and 59% gaining this accolade including Maths and English. These are results which reflect a great deal of hard work and pride from students, parents and staff. The A-Level performance was also good and students have gone to Universities and employment across the country. We wish them well.

Two outstanding Open Evenings: record numbers of parents and children looking at the work of our school. We have hosted a number of tours and feel confident that many have left impressed by what Aldridge School is achieving.

Maths success: with our Maths team being asked to work with others in the Black Country on how to encourage more students to continue into A-Level and beyond. This will give our best mathematicians access to university mentors and master-classes.

American links: Aldridge School is to be paired with the Washington Maths and Science College in the American capital and all being well a series of staff and student exchange visits will take place. This is to support our work in Science but also to build an international outlook for our students.

We have also held our first meeting of the year with the Aldridge Parents Consultation Committee and discussed with them the innovations and developments we will look to introduce, and build on our present upward trajectory. If you wish to join this group please contact the school and give us your e mail address.

Finally, we hope you have all had a chance to look at the developments around the site, with our new reception and administration area, the new Sixth Form Centre and the redeveloped SEN and Student Development area.

Thanks for your support and help and here is to an excellent 2009-10.

Mr D. Mountney BSc MA

Give me an A

Due to popular demand cheer leading has arrived at Aldridge School. Maddison Dance Company is working alongside the PE department to deliver cheer leading to enthusiastic pupils. 25 motivated youngsters from Years 7-9 brave the cold, dark mornings to take part in lively, energetic sessions led by a qualified cheer leading coach.



The group are working on a routine ready for the dance festival later in the year. The sessions are free of charge, open to all pupils and run every Thursday morning between 7.30am - 8.30am in the swimming pool gym.

Rounders Champions

Congratulations to Years 9 & 10 girls Rounders teams who became Walsall Champions on September 16th. Both teams qualified for the final after winning all of their cluster matches. The final was held at Willenhall School. Year 10 beat Walsall Academy 11-6 and year 9 beat Willenhall 9-6. Both teams were undefeated and look forward to the 2010 season.



Year 8 Jurassic Coast Trip

Within Year 8, a group of 30 students seized the opportunity to venture out on a Geography trip to the Jurassic Coast in Dorset. The aim was to develop geographical and physical educational skills. This amazing trip took place on Friday 19th June to Monday 22nd.

After the tedious 5 hour journey, we were pleasantly greeted by the friendly PGL staff who made sure we were comfortable with our surroundings. On the first evening we played a game of aeroball, a mix between netball and trampolining.

The following day we began our enthralling adventure out to Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door and Chesil Beach. We fully studied the geographical effects of weathering and erosion and what could happen in the future to this beautiful coastline. We labelled sketches and completed worksheets on the formation of features such as an arch, stack and cove. After several miles of walking we returned to buy some well deserved ice cream, then took the coach to Portland where we filled out more worksheets about coastal defence schemes. Later that evening we visited Weymouth, a popular seaside town where we ate fish and chips and played games on the beach.



For the next two days we stayed at the centre and used our skills in team work, co-operation, motivation and innovation to complete a set of intriguing, interesting outdoor tasks including abseiling, climbing and collecting fossils. For the majority of students this was extremely exciting.

Unfortunately, by now, it was time to leave after an enjoyable, exciting break away which I am positive all staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed and gained some useful geographical skills, which could be applied in many of our lessons.

By Sherie Barratt

Year 8 Peak District Trip

The week beginning June 23rd 2009 was when the Geography Department arranged for all of Year 8 to visit the Peak District as an opportunity for us to see everything we've been learning throughout the year. Our group went on 26th June; we started early and after a long coach journey we finally arrived at Milldale. This small village has a little shop and some houses. We did various activities involving recording data from rivers, navigating locations and eating delightful treats!

We started our long walk along the river completing our booklets at various locations. The most exciting part of the day was going into massive caves such as Doveholes! Congratulations to Connor Young for falling over. We did more measurements at a place called Ilam Rock which is a large pillar of rock which sticks out of the ground and was at one time under the seabed. We made a short walk to 'Lovers Leap' seeing many other visitors on the way as the valley is a well known tourist destination. There we sat and ate lunch in the hot sun.



Eventually, after a quick walk, we arrived at Thorpe Cloud, where we made more measurements of the river and made our way over the stepping stones to a waiting ice cream van. There we had a well earned ice cream and drinks. Then we got back on the coach leaving the sunshine behind returning to heavy rain in Aldridge. The point of the day was to look at river formations of the area and the River Dove. Thanks to the teachers for accompanying us.

Dunfield House

Aldridge School has been visiting Dunfield House since 1984, but this has to have been the largest group to go. The house is two miles west of Kington, Herefordshire and in the heart of the beautiful Welsh border country. Thank goodness for good weather as there is plenty of space to run off the huge meals and surplus energy. Pupils also had the opportunity to go swimming and to go on an evening walk to experience real peace and quiet! Some pupils still found it difficult to sleep and found themselves talking until the early hours!



Each day was packed with rehearsals; Senior and Junior Bands, Senior Orchestra, String ensemble, Clarinet choirs, Duets, Guitar Ensemble, Mixed Woodwind ensembles, Brass Groups, Saxophone choirs, all culminating in a successful charity Concert at St. Mary's Parish Church in Kington on the Thursday evening. Mr. Bowyer ferried pupils down to a freezing cold church where the Senior Orchestra, Swing Band and Senior Band delivered an excellent programme. This included a performance on the organ of the Widor Toccata from Symphony No. 5, by Richard Dawson as well as two items from the Senior Strings and the Saxophone Quartet. Then back to Dunfield for hot dogs and hot chocolate then bed.

The journey back to school was much quieter as most pupils caught up on their sleep. For once, I don't think anything was left behind and the pupils made a very good impression on everyone from the coach driver, to the managers of the house and the locals who supported the concert.

Netball Organisers Award

The Netball Organisers Award is designed to develop an understanding of the game as a whole, this course gives young people the opportunity to plan and deliver safe and fun coaching sessions to young netballers.

Selected Year 8 pupils were given the opportunity to take part in this course. Madeline Turner, Amy Shaw, Imogen Hayes, Isabel Hughes, Sophie Godwin, Charlotte Pardington, Emma Fardell and Sian Amos all took part in planning and delivery of a Netball Festival for the local primary schools and all were successful in passing the course. Congratulations to all the girls!

Year 12 Induction Day

At the beginning of the new school year the Year 12's took part in an induction-army day. This enabled them to take part in a range of activities which would help them with their interpersonal skills, their confidence and also how to work in a team. However, not only students benefited but teachers also took part which meant student-teacher relationships were improved.

The students felt that the activities helped them in a number of ways. John Carter said, "A lot of information was given to me about the army, and I also learnt not only how to work in teams but also lead teams, which will help me throughout life'. Two students who are new to Aldridge School Sixth Form, Reece Johnson and Aqib Mahmmod, also felt the day gave them a positive experience. "We got to know a lot of the students and it helped us with our confidence as a lot of people were in teams with people they did not know, which meant we did not feel left out".

By Kareendeep Kaur

Bryntysilio

Aldridge School is devoted to going to Bryntysilio twice a year, however this custom is under threat because Walsall Council are making cut backs in their budgets to save money.



Our annual visit this summer was once again full of fun filled activities consisting of; canoeing, fossil hunting, visiting the Welsh mountain zoo, Chirk Castle, Erddig house, Sea side, Acting and Singing and so much more.

Unfortunately, Bryntysilio is at risk due to the budget cuts being proposed by Walsall Council. In doing so Walsall will lose the partnership with Bryntysilio, leading to its eventual closure.

Students of Aldridge School wish for Bryntysilio to stay open, as they believe that the experience is character building and will benefit students for the rest of their lives. It also gives older students the opportunity to participate in an outward bound course that would be otherwise unavailable to city students. At present there is a petition going around school for students and staff to sign, which will then be forwarded to Walsall Council registering our concerns.

Clubs and Activities

Aldridge School offers many opportunities outside the class room. This page contains a guide to what is available.

Monday

Dance

Swimming Pool
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
Years 7 - 13 Girls

Football

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
Year 10 Boys

Basketball

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
Years 7 - 9 Boys

Football

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
Year 7 Boys

Table Tennis

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
Years 10 - 13 Boys

Badminton

Sports Hall
After School (3:15 - 4:15)
Years 9 - 11 Girls

Rugby

Sports Hall
After School (3:15 - 4:15)
All Years Girls

Rugby

Sports Hall
After School (3:15 - 4:15)
All Years Boys

Trampoline

Sports Hall
After School (3:15 - 4:15)
Years 7 - 9 Boys

Tuesday

Swimming

Swimming Pool
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
All Years Girls

Frisbee

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
All Years Boys

Football

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
Year 9 Boys

Rugby

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
Years 12 and 13 Boys

Tuesday (continued . .)

Judo Club

Goodsell Gym
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
All Years Boys

Mixed Race Identity

Room 21
Form Time (1:45 - 2:15)
All Years
EMAG Tutor available

Judo Club

Goodsell Gym
After School (3:15 - 4:15)
All Years

Fitness

Sports Hall
After School (3:15 - 4:15)
Years 10 - 13

Wednesday

Trampoline

Sports Hall
Morning (7.30 - 8.30)
Years 8 - 9 Girls

Aldridge Buzz

Room 7
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
All Years

Netball

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
All Years Girls

Dodgeball

Swimming Pool Gym
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
All Years Girls

Football

Goodsell Gym
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
Years 12 - 13 Boys

Football

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
Year 7 Boys

Swimming

Swimming Pool
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
Years 7 - 9 Boys

Drama Club

Drama Studio
After School (3:30 - 4:30)
All Years

Thursday

Cheerleading

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
All Years Girls

Chess Club

Room 26
Lunch Time (1:00 - 1:40)
All Years

Football

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
All Years Girls

Thursday (continued . .)

Girls Tournament Day

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
All Years Girls

Cross Country

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
All Years

Football

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
Year 8 Boys

Badminton

Sports Hall
After School (3:15 - 4:15)
Years 7 - 8 Girls

Football

Sports Hall
After School (3:15 - 4:15)
Year 7 Boys

Friday

Trampoline

Sports Hall
Morning (7.30 - 8.30)
Years 7 - 11 Boys

Reading Club

Room 17
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
All Years

Swimming

Swimming Pool
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
All Years Girls

Badminton

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
All Years Boys

Table Tennis

Goodsell Gym
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
All Years Girls

Rugby

Sports Hall
Lunchtime (1:00 - 2:15)
Years 7 - 9 Girls

Badminton

Sports Hall
After School (3:15 - 4:15)
Team Boys

KS3 Play

Mrs Peniket is producing a Key Stage Three play. Rehearsals take place every lunchtime in the Drama Studio. The play is called 'Scheherezade' and anyone who might be willing to help in terms of set, props and make up is welcome.

Science Club

We would like to offer Year 7 pupils the chance to come along to a fortnightly Wednesday Science Club.

The proposed dates for 2009-10 are listed below, but may be subject to change.

11/11, 25/11, 9/12, 13/1, 27/1, 10/2, 3/3, 17/3, 24/3, 21/4, 5/5, 19/5, 9/6, 23/6

The club will commence at 3:30pm and end at 4:30pm.

Unfortunately, places are limited to an absolute maximum of 32 and will be allocated to the first 32 pupils returning fully completed consent forms to our Science College laboratory technician, Mrs Watts, in the new science block.

In Brief . . .

Staff Training Days take place on Monday 3rd November and Tuesday 4th November. School reopens at 8:40am on Wednesday 5th November when whole school photographs will take place.

The APP Group meet on 8th October minutes of the meeting are available on the website. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 1st December. If you are interested in joining please e-mail the school.

Aldridge School - A Science College

Your future starts here

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Science