



18<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you very much for your support this half term – the last 7 weeks have flown by!

## **Academic Excellence**

It was great to see so many Year 10 and 11 students and parents at our How to Succeed evening – we really appreciate your positive and constructive feedback in making this event even more successful next year. I look forward to seeing Year 7, 8 and 11 parents at our Parents Evenings this term – Year 11 on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November, Year 7 for a Parent/Tutor meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November and Year 8 on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Following feedback and discussion at our Summer Term Parent Forum, we have reviewed our approach to assessments and exams – please read the attached information sheet, which will also be available on our website. We are confident that this approach will enable us to measure student progress, prepare students for GCSE exams, and inform curriculum planning to ensure that it best meets student needs.

As you may have seen, the DfE school performance tables have been updated for 2019 with unvalidated headline figures, and we are delighted that the hard work of our students and staff has been recognized with our “above average” Progress 8 score of 0.31 for 2019. We look forward to welcoming our Team 21 students who completed their GCSEs this summer back to collect their certificates and catch up with friends and teachers on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November from 4-5pm.

## **Personal Development, Character Education and Enrichment**

Well done to all of the students who have been involved in our extensive enrichment programme and to parents who have supported this. So far this term activities have included Year 9 students completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze expedition, hosting students from our German partner school in Gütersloh, our annual Trust Madrid trip, Science trips to the Space Centre and Alton Towers, and our GCSE Art trip to London, and over 120 Year 7 students taking part in teambuilding, outdoor pursuits and camping at Walesby Activity Centre. Large numbers of students have taken part in our weekly enrichment programme (including 3 PE activities every day!), and numerous students have represented the school in sports fixtures – including both our Year 7 and 8 boys football teams winning cup games and going through to the next round.

As always, we have a wide range of exciting enrichment opportunities and events during the second part of the term, including our annual Cologne Christmas Market trip, a Year 9 Science trip to the Bradford Science museum, and a Year 7 theatre trip to see A Christmas Carol. Rehearsals and preparations for our two school productions, A Night at the Movies on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, and Midsummer Night's Dream on Thursday 12 – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, and our Carol Concert on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December and Christmas Music Concert on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, are underway. It is always lovely to see so many friends and family members come and support our talented and engaging performers; all members of the school community are welcome to attend, even if you don't know any performers – please note that for some of the events tickets do need to be purchased. I would like to say a massive thank you to our staff team who work tirelessly to ensure that Alderman White truly is “a community of opportunity for all”. Please encourage your child to get involved!

## **Student Leadership**

Many students are taking on leadership roles within school. Our Senior Students run breakfast club in the Dining Hall every morning before school, as well as the Hub in W32 every lunchtime. Our Year 5 and 6 Open Evening in September was even better attended than last year, and as usual it was our student volunteers



who really impressed our visitors. Our Environment Ambassadors meet every Thursday lunchtime and are now working in three teams to develop our recycling programme, reduce single use plastics in the cafeteria, and to reduce our carbon footprint. It is wonderful to see our students take the lead in our environmental strategy.

### Parental Engagement

Please do ensure that you are using our My Ed app and the school website, as well as our Trust newsletter and Alderman White social media accounts, to keep up to date with school news. Please access Go4Schools regularly to get information about your son/daughter's progress at school. If there is anything else we can support with or you feel we should know, please do phone or email the school.

It was great to see new faces at our Parent Forum and PTA Welcome Meeting this term. Minutes of meetings are made available on our website.

**A message from our PTA:** We very much hope that you will join the **Alderman White PTA for our Christmas Fayre on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November from 6 - 8pm**. We have many exciting craft, jewellery, gift and food stalls to inspire you for Christmas as well as student-led activities, drinks, doughnuts and Domino's Pizza. Following the success of the Summer Raffle, form groups are creating fun and festive prizes themed as crackers or stockings, so come and see what they have made and see if you can win a fabulous prize. Student music and dance groups will be providing entertainment. If you can help with donations for the Bottle Tombola – unopened and unused bottles of 'pop', wine, bubble bath, shampoo, shower gel etc. please get these to school by Wednesday 20th November. If you are able to help us on the night please email us: [PTA@aldermanwhite.school](mailto:PTA@aldermanwhite.school).

### High Expectations

We are very proud of the way that our students demonstrate their integrity and responsibility by meeting our expectations without needing to be reminded. Please do ensure that your child is abiding by the uniform expectations on our website. As the weather is now colder (and often wetter!) please ensure your child brings a warm, waterproof plain dark coloured coat, without any large logos, to school. Black cardigans or jumpers with the school logo may be worn under blazers, but no hoodies, sweatshirts or other jumpers are allowed.

Thank you for ensuring that your child comes to school with a suitable school bag, pencil case including black or blue pens, green pens (for peer/self-assessment), pencils, a ruler and eraser, a reading book and their school planner. We strongly advise against bringing any valuables to school - phones and headphones may not be used in school at all (unless with the permission of the teacher for educational purposes only), and will be confiscated if they are seen or heard.

Please can we ask that any parents or carers who drive to our school site are very careful with regard to pedestrian safety and show consideration to our neighbours when parking off site. Please do not enter our car parks at the start or end of the school day unless you have been given specific permission to do so, as they are also used by students on foot at these times. If you are attending a school event, please park on site or ensure that you are not obstructing access or pavements if you choose to park in the local area. As the days are shorter, please remind students about the importance of road safety when they are walking or cycling to school. We strongly advise that any student cycling to school wears a helmet and reflective clothing.

I hope you and your family have an enjoyable and restful half-term break. We look forward to welcoming students back on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 8.45am**, when it will be **Week 2**.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs A Mellors  
Head of School

**Key Dates for Autumn 2:**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 4-7pm:** Y11 Parents Evening

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November:** Year 11 Progress Exams

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 3.45 -6.15pm:** Year 7 Parent/Tutor Meeting

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November:** Children in Need

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 4-5pm:** GCSE Certificate Evening (*Year 11 2018-19*)

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November:** PTA Christmas Fayre

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December:** Cologne Christmas Market trip

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December:** Y8 Parents Evening

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December:** School Production - A Night at the Movies

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Carol Concert

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** School Production - Midsummer Night's Dream

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** Year 7 Theatre Trip – Christmas Carol

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December:** Y9 Science Museum Bradford trip

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Concert

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December:** Last day of term