

Our Ref: CRE/JDY

1 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to welcome you and your child to Aldworth School and express how pleased I am that you will be joining our community. We are continuing to see record numbers of applications and are fully subscribed for September, which is a great testament to the continued improvements and ambitions of the staff.

Over the upcoming months your child will be immersed into an induction at Aldworth school through a number of transition opportunities and events. We will host our popular 'Set for Seven Live' shows; these are streamed through YouTube to introduce the children to some of our staff and students, as well as start to create the community amongst our intake of 2024. Alongside this, we will be visiting the students in their current primary school during April and May. We will also hold a two-day induction at the end of June where they will visit lessons, meet teachers and new classmates, with some initial navigating around the school. In July, we will invite you and your child to an information evening where we will talk to parents about the expectations and opportunities. The children will also meet their new tutor groups. All of these occasions will provide an ideal opportunity for them to gain an insight into life at Aldworth and hopefully get excited about coming to their new school.

Further to these events and opportunities we will have an area on our website called 'Set for Seven'. We will upload all the materials we send out on that area of the website so you don't have to worry about having lost a letter, and it will also provide information about Year 7 key staff and FAQ's. We will also set up a Facebook group and Set for Seven email for you to use to send in questions. These elements will be live before the Easter break, and we will let you know the details as soon as they are ready for you to use.

Moving to secondary school is an important event for children and sometimes an even bigger event for their parents. Ultimately, you want to know that your child will be cared for and that reassurance that 'big school' is full of exciting possibilities and not a cause of worry and fear. Our aim in the summer term is to ensure that you are and, most importantly, your child is looking forward to the possibilities that Aldworth offers and excited about their future with us.

We have the highest aspirations for our students and are here to support, stretch, challenge, and nurture your child to help them achieve their full potential. Our current Year 7 students will be involved in many of the transition activities so they can pass on first-hand information in regards to settling in and becoming part of our school community. A number of students have written letters of induction to our new intake. You will find four of these letters attached to this email; they would very much like you to share them with your child.

Here are some key dates for your diary:

- Wednesday 27 March - Set for 7 Live
- Wednesday 19 June - Set for 7 Live
- Thursday 27 June and Friday 28 June - Induction Days
- Tuesday 9 July - Information Evening

I look forward to meeting you all and developing a strong relationship between home and school. I appreciate the transition from Primary to Secondary can be a worrying time, especially to those where this may be your first child transitioning to Secondary or to the few who haven't got your first choice, however I want to reassure you that we will do everything in our power to help make the transition to secondary school as successful as possible for your child. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Rice', written in a cursive style.

Mr C Rice
Headteacher

Dear Year 6

It Will be fun! You might think you will get lost around the school at the start. However, there are lots of kind teachers and students who will help you make your way around school.

There are lots of different lessons you will go to and enjoy. Some of your lesson will be in tutor groups, some will be in sets. Whatever group you are in we know you will make lots of new friends!

Gracie and Ayla – Year 7

Dear Year 6

We know you might be scared about secondary school as it is bigger than primary and there are lots more classrooms. At first, we were a bit scared but we were fine and really enjoy it here at Aldworth School. The school is easier that we thought it would be to get around, it now seems somewhat smaller than it did at the start of the year.

There are over 100 clubs, from chess club to football club. We are both part of the football club and have been very successful. We are now through to the Hampshire finals.

Every year there are school trips on offer. We are really looking forward to the residentials, and have signed up to go skiing in Italy with school next April. So far this year we have been involved in reward events and a trip to the cinema. There is so much more for us planned in Year 7 too!

All of your lessons will be enjoyable and you will make lots of new friends. Don't be late for your lessons though because they are really important and you learn so much.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Poppy and Evie - Year 7

Dear Year 6 Aldworth Students,

Aldworth School is an excellent, comfortable and safe place that you shouldn't worry about joining. We have an excellent community of teachers, staff and many other people who can help you if something is wrong.

At Aldworth you are made to feel important and you can achieve your goals and dreams. Moving around classrooms may be a little daunting to think about at first, but your timetable will help you become more familiar with the school. I felt really nervous at first about getting lost while moving to my next lesson. I found it's nothing to worry about at all, since there are lovely staff members who are willing to help you, especially your tutor.

During lunch and break there is a hall (located in the Winchester building) just for Year 7s. It is a good place to go to meet friends in the same year or, if you don't wish to be inside, you can go onto the playground. The main canteen offers a large area to sit and you can purchase a variety of delicious snacks, such as sausage rolls, croissants, sandwiches, popcorn, pretzels and burgers. You also have options for a hot meal. You can also buy bottles of flavoured water, fizzy drinks and different flavours of milk.

Fan of sports? Aldworth has a massive variety of sports that you can learn in PE. This includes: rugby, football, cricket, fitness, basketball, trampolining, netball and many more. Not a fan of sports? Maybe you'd enjoy learning mathematics with our wonderful Head of Year Mr Morsley or maybe you want to learn English with Miss Smyth. Whatever you prefer, you can always find the right thing for you to enjoy.

Aldworth has many after school clubs that you can participate in. Athletic? Then join football or basketball club. Want to get fitter? Then join fitness club. Love making awesome Lego projects? Then join Lego Club. You can always suggest a club to a teacher – Aldworth is always willing to do more for its students.

I look forward to seeing you in September.

Daniel - Year 8

Dear Year 6 student

I am really glad you're going to be coming to Aldworth School!

Coming to secondary school can be a scary feeling I admit. Your primary school has carried you most of the way and now Aldworth School is going to carry you for the next 5 years of the way. I'm writing to welcome you.

When I first started here at Aldworth School I had multiple feelings. I was worried, scared, excited and many more. It felt like the scariest and biggest thing I had ever done. The teachers here will help you the whole way through. Within a few weeks you will be used to your timetable, your teachers and where to go. All the older students have been through this journey before and will help you out as we have all been there.

As a current Year 7 I can assure you that we have a fantastic Head of Year that will help you through your Year 7 journey. One of the perks you have is your very own hall to use in the Winchester building for break and lunch, which is only for you - the Year 7's.

As soon as you start you will be in a tutor group, you are likely to be with at least one of your chosen friends. All your lessons will be mixed in different sets, but your timetable will always tell you where you need to go. This will help you meet lots of new people and make so many new friends. The work will be harder as you go on through the year, but if you need any help the teachers are always there to make it easier or just show you how to do it.

There is a pastoral and safeguarding team in Dartmouth block that will help you with any worries or friendship issues. When starting at Aldworth I didn't know if I would be able to talk to teachers about things, but as time went on I discovered that I could talk to any of the teachers, my tutor, head of year or the pastoral team, now I immediately know where to go.

I have loved my time so far at Aldworth, and I am sure you will too. There is so much to get involved with and do. I can't wait to meet you on one of your transition days.

Your sincerely,

Lily - Year 7