



September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Exceptional GCSE & A Level Results 2023

We are extremely proud of the fantastic results our students achieved this summer. Overall, grades and progress were really strong. Below is a snapshot of the headlines which will be reported, but there were also some exceptional achievements by individual students in years 10-13 across a broad range of subjects.

- **74%** of Year 11 achieved 5 to 9 grades in both English and Maths [national average in 2022 was 50% and the provisional Leeds average this year is around 50%]
- In Year 11 the average Attainment 8 score is 57. This is calculated based on each student's best 8 grades. To give some context, the national average in 2022 was 48.7.
- Progress estimates have not yet been released but early indications are that most students made strong progress, therefore we expect our Progress 8 score to be good.
- 55% of A Level grades were A*-B, 24% were A/A* and 85% were A*-C. The average grade achieved was a Grade B-. Grades in vocational qualifications were also exceptional. The average grade was a distinction [which is equivalent to an A Level Grade A/B]
Virtually all students secured their places in Higher Education which included entry to the University of Oxford, dentistry and medicine. We wish all students well at university, during their GAP Year or in the world of work and look forward to hearing of their future successes.
- Year 10 students [who completed 1 or 2 GCSE courses] performed very well. We are very proud of their successes to date and as long as they continue to work hard, they are on track to receive some excellent results at the end of Year 11.

We are delighted for our students that their hard work was rewarded and grateful to staff for investing so much time and effort to help students secure such fabulous results.

We have recruited well to the 6th Form and, as ever, we are pleased to welcome external students joining us in year 12.

Staffing News

We have welcomed all students back after the holidays and also have a number of new colleagues joining us this September:

Teaching

Mr Aylott, Assistant Headteacher
Mr Kirtley, Miss Rao and Mr Arshad (Maths)
Miss Thwaite (Science & Maths)
Miss Aymer-Jeffrey (Science)
Mr Parmar (English)
Miss Bruce, Miss Carville and Mr Nelson (History)
Miss Geldard-Williams (Geography)
Miss Learey (MFL)
Mrs Khan (Business/ICT)
Mrs Dainty (Technology)
Mr Malik (Social Science)

Support Staff

Miss Allen and Miss Silla (SEND TA)
Mr Pandar (Behaviour Support Worker)

Expansion

We are delighted with the new block with 17 classrooms, additional PE changing facilities and a new cafeteria is completed. We have had to walk students round to be clear about circulation routes hence the staggered return this week. Social spaces within the block will be used by 6th Form students throughout the day although the cafeteria is used by other year groups each day for lunch and break.

Various offices are located in the new building which include Place2Be, the 6th Form Office and Year 11 Office. The new facility also houses our SEND provision.

Whilst on the subject of buildings, you will have seen the recent media coverage relating to school closures because of the reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). I would like to reassure you that we have no issues regarding this material given that the school was built in 2008.

Point of Contact for Parents & Carers

As teachers are with their students throughout the day and have several classes, they do not respond routinely to parent concerns or issues. Heads of Year are the first point of contact for parents/carers [see email link below]:

Head of Year 7 (Year7@allertonhigh.org.uk)	-	Miss Carr
Head of Year 8 (Year8@allertonhigh.org.uk)	-	Mrs Knill
Head of Year 9 (Year9@allertonhigh.org.uk)	-	Mr Odu
Head of Year 10 (Year10@allertonhigh.org.uk)	-	Miss Broadhead
Head of Year 11 (Year11@allertonhigh.org.uk)	-	Ms Hepworth
Post-16 Lead (p16@allertonhigh.org.uk)	-	Mr Clynes
[Ms Hudson is Assistant Post-16 Lead and Mrs Tidman/Ms Menzer/Mrs Merckel & Mr Taylor also support the Year 12 & 13 Office]		
SEND Issues	-	Mrs Oliver (SEND Manager)

Messages to the Year Offices are picked up by the Head of Year, Year Manager and/or Year Coach; the most appropriate colleague will respond.

If you wish to speak to someone, please contact the General Office as a first step and ask for the relevant Year Office. If the Head of Year is not available when you call, the Year Manager or Year Coach associated with the year group will either take the call or phone you back. Alternatively, for general concerns, you can make contact with the school via info@allertonhigh.org.uk

Please contact my PA, Mrs Dove if you need to make an appointment with me or have any difficulty getting a response to your queries.

The next Parents' Forum is on Wednesday 11 October from 6pm-7.15pm which provides you with an opportunity to ask about any aspect of the school's provision. It will also include a presentation about the school's approach to equality and diversity. All are welcome especially new Year 7 parents/carers but please indicate ahead if you wish to attend by contacting the General Office.

Behaviour & Equality Policies

Current copies of our Positive Behaviour and Equality policies are available on the school website or parents/carers can contact the school to receive a copy of either policy. Parents should initially contact Mrs Dove with questions/concerns about either policy.



One change for parents/carers to be aware of is that after school detentions now finish at 3.30pm. However, if a student does not attend, they will be collected before break the following day and placed in the Inclusion Unit, repeating the detention that afternoon.

Although schools can keep students in detention without informing parents/carers, we always try to give notice via Class Charts and text/email to both parents/carers and student. We prefer not to re-arrange the detention but ask students to contact you to let you know where they are. We ask that you check the Personal Organiser, Class Charts and email/text messages on a daily basis.

We have asked students to have a school bag big enough for text books, their Personal Organiser and a bottle of water. We expect students to fill water bottles at break and lunch. Students should not bring fizzy drinks into school nor family size bags of crisps, biscuits and chocolate in line with our healthy school's policy. Such items will be confiscated and can be collected at the end of school.

Cycling to school

We want to encourage students to cycle to school but students must register on Operoo if they wish to do so. Parent/Carers are asked to sign the form [available on Operoo] to confirm awareness of the conditions below to bringing a cycle to school.

Please be aware of the following:

- We now have a second secure cycle store at the Nursery Lane entrance
- Cycles are brought at students' own risk. We cannot guarantee safety/security
- Students should not ride cycles inside the school grounds
- Students must bring their own cycle locks to secure the cycle to the posts
- Students found to be disregarding the guidance will be refused permission to bring their cycle to school

We strongly advise that students wear a cycle helmet when travelling to and from school.

Car Parking

Please do not drop your children off or pick up in the school car park; there simply is no space. We have disabled parking spaces on site which must be free for users with a disability. We encourage our youngsters to walk to school. If you are dropping off/collecting, please use the neighbouring Park & Ride facility, being considerate of other users.

We receive complaints about the number of parents who block the roundabout near the entrance to the Park & Ride – some parents often pick students up in the bus lane or enter the Park & Ride but try to immediately turn round to leave rather than queue to get out.

Please pass the description of a vehicle, its registration number and/or the name of the driver if you know it, to Reception if you are concerned about driver behaviour. We will then ask our Safer Schools Police Officer to intervene.

If you need access to the school's car park to make use of the disabled spaces, we can arrange that for you if you contact Mrs Hameed, Business Manager

Data Collection

Please let us know of any changes to your details as we want to send information electronically and we also text parents/carers with reminders so your co-operation with this is vital. If you have moved house, please let us know the new address.



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We would also appreciate it if parents would contact school if they have ever received Free School Meals, have an adopted child or their circumstances have changed and they now are entitled to universal credit. If school is unaware, we cannot claim additional funding which will benefit your youngster. We understand that this information is sensitive but please be reassured, the conversation will be completely confidential; please phone the Finance Office and ask for Mrs Hameed, Business Manager.

Extra-curricular Activities

A programme of activities will be distributed in Coaching over the next week; the programme will also be available on the website.

Older students have coursework catch-up sessions on Tuesday and Thursday until 4.30pm. They will be stretched by the volume of work expected at GCSE but there is Support Club available Monday-Thursday until 4.00pm [3.30pm Friday] for students in all years where members of staff are available to help students with projects and homework.

Catering

You can make online payments to 'Chartwells' via Parent Pay [www.parentpay.com]. You should have personal log in details but can contact the school's Finance Office if this is a problem. Cheques made payable to 'Chartwells' can be handed to the Catering Manager and students can use the REVAL machines to top up their accounts if you prefer. Members of staff at Chartwells have made us aware of a slight increase in prices [a copy of their price list is on our website] together with the 'Grab Bag' form available for students when going on visits.

Personal Organiser & Class Charts

All students are issued with a Personal Organiser so they can plan their learning and keep information relating to school in a central place. Students should be logging homework details and information relating to progress. It is important that students always have their Organiser; if they forget it a second time, we will contact you to ask you to bring it in. The Personal Organiser should be graffiti free. If it is unfit for purpose a replacement costs £4.50.

You should have been given access to Class Charts so that you can check on the achievement points and behaviour codes issued by staff to your child/ren through the course of the day. Please contact school if you have not had this information.

Google Classroom

At AHS we use Google Classroom as our remote learning space where students may be set some homeworks, access additional educational links and learning resources such as revision sites. In the event of a school closure and work needing to be set remotely this will be done through Google Classroom. All students can access their account using the Google Workspace link in the "quick links" menu at the top of our website's homepage. Account details are the student's school e-mail address and network password. If there are any issues with this our IT Support Team can be contacted using the form on the Remote Learning section of the school website.

Dress Code

We have not changed the uniform requirements other than to insist students wear more tailored trousers rather than leggings which seems to be the fashion just now. Students should be wearing all black shoes/trainers and if they are not, we can provide a pair of plain black plimsolls for the day. If students are not following the dress code for whatever reason, they are isolated at break and lunch so others do not follow suit thinking we have changed our approach on any aspect of uniform policy.

We appreciate your support in maintaining high standards of dress in school.



Mobile Phones

Just to remind all parents/carers that students should not have mobile phones in school. If they are seen, staff will confiscate them. Students must come to my office at the end of the school day and wait in a detention for the phone to be returned but this will not be before 4pm. We will contact you to inform you that your child is waiting at school to collect their phone. Alternatively, they may leave school at the end of the day on time and collect their phone the next day.

If you want your child to have access to their phone, they should place it at the bottom of their school bag and take it out *after* school on their way home if you have an urgent message, please contact the General Office; staff will assist.

We appreciate your support with this as young people will find it difficult to be without their phone throughout the day following the 6-week break.

Year 8 Team Building

Year 8 students will participate in a team building event at Nell Bank Centre during weeks beginning 11 and 18 September. Once details are finalised, we will provide information about the residential experience which we offer to students later in their school career.

Subject Consultation Evening & Events this half-term

We have year 12 Welcome Evening Monday 11 September so that we can provide parents/carers with an overview of how the 6th Form works because it is important our young people get off to the best possible start in terms of 6th Form study. Similarly, we have a year 11 Information Evening Wednesday 20 September. Parents/carers of year 11 students have received the relevant details.

We also have a Welcome Evening for year 7 parents/carers Thursday 21 September. This is an opportunity for parents to meet their child's Coach but there are also short presentations about our systems such as Positive Behaviour and how we track progress which parents can also drop in to; additional information will be distributed by Ms Carr but we look forward to meeting new parents on that night.

Following consultation with parents/carers and staff last academic year, we will run Subject Consultation Evenings remotely in 2023-24. We will be in touch about the arrangements for each event nearer the time with detail outlining how we will best support those with connectivity/equipment issues.

September 11	-	Year 12 Welcome Evening
September 13, 15, 18	-	Year 8 Team Building at Nell Bank
September 14	-	Theatre Visit 'The House with Chicken Legs'
September 19	-	Musician Visit
September 20	-	Year 11 Information Evening from 6-7.30pm
September 21	-	Year 7 Welcome Evening from 4-7pm [School Hall]
September 28	-	Year 6 Open Evening – early finish for students at 1.50pm
September 29	-	Training Day [School closed to students]
October 3	-	Full Governor Meeting
October 4	-	Artist visiting Year 7 students
October 5	-	Theatre Visit 'I, Daniel Blake'
October 6	-	Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Assessment [Group A]
October 9	-	Sports Leaders Golf Event [20 students]
October 10	-	Year 13 Subject Consultation Evening 4-7pm [held remotely]
October 11	-	'Prison me, no way' Year 10 event re: anti-social behaviour
	-	Parents Forum 6-7.15pm [all welcome, <i>please confirm your attendance with the General Office</i>]



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- October 12 - Theatre Visit 'Metamorphosis'
- October 14 - Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition [white band]
- October 18 – 23 - Sports Tour Greece
- October 19 - Year 10 Subject Consultation Evening 4-7pm [held remotely]
- October 27 - School finishes for half-term break

Please note that school finishes early [1.50pm on Thursday 28 September for the Year 6 Open Evening. If parents/carers need their child to be supervised until the usual ending of the school day, please contact the General Office. Friday 29 September is a training day so school will be closed to students.

During this half-term, we will be formally consulting with students in Year 12 about how we prepared items for the GCSE examinations in summer 2023 and we will consult with Year 7 students about the transition programme and how we supported them in their move to Allerton High.

I appreciate your support as we start another academic year. As ever, if you need any support or have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to make contact.



Elaine Silson
Headteacher

