

inspiring
innovators

GROWN AT ALDER GRANGE

ALDER GRANGE PROSPECTUS

NURTURING
INSPIRATIONAL
CARING
EXCELLENCE



THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR SCHOOL. THIS BOOKLET HIGHLIGHTS THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT ALDER GRANGE SCHOOL AND OUR APPROACH TO WORKING WITH THEM.



Our aim is that Alder Grange should be:

- A school where everybody is inspired to be the best they can.
- A place where excellence is nurtured.
- A community which cares.

To achieve this, we place considerable emphasis on developing the 'whole child'.

To us, emotional, physical, moral, creative, and academic development all combine to help our young people become outstanding, independent, resilient and effective citizens who are well prepared for their future place in society.

During the seven years spent at Alder Grange, every student will be nurtured and developed with the skills needed to be successful in an ever changing world.

Alder Grange's excellence and high levels of achievement have been recognised in many ways, both locally and nationally. Our school staff are highly qualified, skilled and dedicated to their role and are committed to excellence, both in and out of the classroom.



We have high expectations of our young people, but even higher expectations of ourselves.

If you would like to speak to us to find out more, or visit the school, you will always be welcome. So please don't hesitate to contact us.

More information, together with copies of school policies, are available on the school website at www.aldergrange.com

David Hampson
Headteacher BSc(Hons), MSc, PGCE, NPQH

"STUDENTS' BEHAVIOUR IS OUTSTANDING. THEY ARE WELCOMING, COURTEOUS AND POLITE."

OFSTED 2013

WELCOME



“THEIR CONDUCT IS
EXCELLENT AND THEY
ARE PROUD TO BELONG
TO THE SCHOOL.”

OFSTED 2013



WE ARE PROUD OF
OUR A-LEVEL AND
GCSE RESULTS, WHICH
COMPARE WELL WITH
RESULTS NATIONALLY
AND ARE IMPROVING
YEAR ON YEAR.



Full details of the most recent results are available on the school website. The results show the high standard of teaching in all subjects, not just in the core subjects. We reach our targets – and in most cases exceed them.

“Teachers showed very good subject knowledge which is used to good effect in their teaching and in responding to students’ questions.”

OFSTED 2013



We aim to bring out the very best in all our students and have designed a curriculum to support this. At each key stage, pupils are provided with a broad and balanced curriculum in order to develop both academic and wider skills needed to help them move on to the next stage in their education.



EXCELLENCE



Alder Grange Curriculum

Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9):

On arrival at Alder Grange, pupils are placed in mixed ability form groups. Here they will be under a Form Teacher who usually stays with them for their seven-year journey through school.

Early in the first term, pupils are set by ability in most subjects. Pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum with the core subjects of Maths, English and Science alongside Humanities, Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish) Art, Design and Technology, Drama, Music and PE. Religious Education is studied from Years 7-11, while there are Sex and Relationship Education lessons delivered through Science and the IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) Programme. Parents can withdraw their child from either of these after speaking to the Head Teacher.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11):

All pupils study English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, RE, Physical Education, ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and IAG.

They then choose options in three additional subjects from a large range on offer – from Languages, History and

Geography to Psychology, Media and Art. Detailed guidance is provided to pupils and parents during the process of choosing options in Year 9.

Key Stage 5 (Years 12-13):

During Year 11, students experience taster sessions in the Sixth Form from a large choice of A-Level and Applied BTEC qualifications. More information on these can be found in our Sixth Form prospectus. The courses in ag6 allow for students to study those subjects they are most passionate about.

It's important that students and parents share our view that homework is an essential part of progress and success. Parents are asked to look at the daily planners and sign them each week, making sure homework has been completed.

We expect excellence in all areas of school life. Alder Grange pupils wear their uniform with pride, and look smart both in school and on their journey to and from school. High levels of attendance and punctuality are also expected. Rewards are given for excellence in all areas of school life through a form group-based house system. Sanctions are given to those pupils who do not adhere to these high standards.



“STUDENTS ARE ATTENTIVE, EAGER TO PLEASE AND KNOW THEIR TEACHERS WANT TO HELP THEM DO THE BEST THEY CAN.”

OFSTED 2013

CURRICULUM



TEACHERS ARE
HIGHLY INNOVATIVE
AND STRUCTURE THEIR
LESSONS PARTICULARLY
WELL.”

OFSTED 2013

INSPIRING

WE AIM TO CREATE A SCHOOL IN WHICH EVERY INDIVIDUAL PUPIL IS INSPIRED TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN.

Our most able, gifted and talented pupils benefit from personalised support. For example, there are extension and enrichment opportunities, there can be personalised timetables as well as visits out of school or mentoring from staff.



Inspiration in sport comes from involvement in school teams, local and national competitions and from older pupils and former pupils acting as coaches and ambassadors. We have had success in sports as diverse as rugby, netball, football, cheerleading, golf, swimming and handball.

It's not just sport as we have a music school, a school magazine, our own Alderbeat radio station and record company, an active school council and we organise trips to the theatre, art galleries, Chester Zoo, museums and more – all geared to help a child grow and develop.

Inspiration in the Performing Arts comes from school productions, extra-curricular clubs and groups, music lessons and more. We have links with local and national events and at all levels, from beginners in a ukulele group and a drum band, to whole school productions of musicals such as 'Bugsy Malone' and 'Grease'. A Sixth Form band even aimed to follow in the footsteps of Arizona with UK chart success.

Alongside these, we offer a range of extra-curricular activities where pupils can mix with each other and develop passions in everything from chess and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) to craft and running.



We also believe outdoor education and adventure training is a key part of a pupil's experience. The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze to Gold Awards form a popular part of school life, where students can thrive in a different environment.

For continuing growth, our £8m state-of-the-art Sixth Form was opened in 2010 and is going from strength to strength. It features purpose-designed teaching facilities including a media and performance studio, fully operational nursery, health care consultation rooms, science laboratories and much more.

We encourage high aspirations for all our students as they prepare for life beyond school. (See our Sixth Form prospectus for more details and a list of courses available at ag6.)



AFTER AG6, JACK
CROWDER WENT ON
TO STUDY MECHANICAL
ENGINEERING AT
MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY
WHICH LEAD HIM TO HIS
CURRENT CAREER IN
NUCLEAR ENGINEERING.

BEHAVIOUR AND SAFETY AT ALDER GRANGE ARE OUTSTANDING – WE KNEW IT AND THE OFSTED INSPECTORS AGREED!

Through respect, trust and high expectations, Alder Grange has developed its unique and caring ethos.

Ofsted praised our school, stating: “Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and work with the school in finding the best way to support them and achieve positive outcomes.”

The report went on to say:

“The behaviour of the students at Alder Grange is outstanding. Their conduct is excellent; they are welcoming, courteous and polite. Older students respond well to responsibilities allocated as prefects, contributing to the calm and orderly way in which students move around the school and conduct themselves during break.”

“Pupils get along very well together, relationships between pupils and staff are positive and warm. They relate well with their teachers and other adults, showing confidence, maturity and respect.”

OFSTED 2013



We also have a system of rewards for students to feel valued and appreciated, from certificates and house points to prize draws and reward trips. On the rare occasion that incidents of poor behaviour and bullying occur, we have effective systems in place to deal with them.

Pupils care for one another through mentoring younger pupils, as prefects, or helping at extra-curricular clubs and through fundraising. Alder Grange holds numerous charity events in school, supporting individual families in times of need, local charities, such as Rossendale Hospice, and national events such as Children in Need.

“TEACHERS KNOW THEIR STUDENTS WELL: THEY PROVIDE EXCELLENT INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT AND HAVE HIGH ASPIRATIONS FOR THEM.”

OFSTED 2013

CARING



“LEADERSHIP AND
MANAGEMENT AT
ALDER GRANGE ARE
OUTSTANDING.”

OFSTED 2013

MOST YOUNG
PEOPLE NEED SOME
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
OR NURTURING AT
SOME POINT DURING
THEIR TIME WITH
US, AND WE PRIDE
OURSELVES ON THE
QUALITY OF THIS.

Some pupils need additional support when they join us in Year 7. The study group supports these pupils in a nurturing environment where they have the same member of staff for a large part of their time.

ag+ is a unit based in the Sixth Form building which provides individual support to pupils in a range of areas, for example following or during illness, with bereavement, in addressing behaviour issues and in friendship or self-esteem building. Specialist staff are on hand to do this, if or when needed.

The SEN (Special Educational Needs) team is based in the main building and offers support to pupils who have additional needs. The team provides in-class support, one-to-one work and small group sessions.

“Students of all abilities and ages show positive attitudes to learning and are able to evaluate their own work and that of their peers. They are attentive, eager to please and know their teachers want to help them do the best they can.”

OFSTED 2013

All pupils receive guidance at each ‘transition’ through school. Whether it be KS2 - KS3 and the move to ‘big’ school or from KS4 - KS5 as they meet the challenge of A-Levels, we are there to provide support.

Workshops and tailored guidance are used at each stage to help them in their sometimes challenging journey, as they grow from children to adults in the seven years they spend with us at Alder Grange.



NURTURING

AS A SCHOOL, WE ARE ALWAYS STRIVING TO IMPROVE, WE ARE PROUD OF OUR REPUTATION BUT NOT COMPLACENT.

The views of all staff and pupils are valued and through leadership at every level, 'Team Alder Grange' works together to keep moving forward. We aim to work closely with parents and local community to achieve this.

For our students, we have a vast array of leadership opportunities where they can take on extra responsibilities - from the school council through to mentors, prefects,

form captains and even representation by the Head Boy and Head Girl on the governing body.

Our senior leadership team are well-established, experienced and are committed to Alder Grange. We have both a Head Teacher and Head of School who between them oversee both the strategic direction of the school and the smooth running of everyday systems.

WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT OUR SCHOOL AND HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US AND FIND OUT FOR YOURSELVES WHY IT IS SO GREAT TO BE AN 'ALDER GRANGER.'

"THE SCHOOL HAS A VERY POSITIVE CLIMATE FOR LEARNING."

OFSTED 2013

WHY ALDER GRANGE?



INSPIRING

Student girl band FairPlay and their 7,000 voice backing choir attempted to hit the charts with their single, Seeing Stars.

EXCELLENCE

Alder Grangers raised more than £2,000 for Rossendale Hospice with their innovative fundraising ideas during the Youth Enterprise Challenge 2016.



NURTURING

Students often stay with us from year seven to A Level and sometimes, like Tomorrow's Teachers Sean and Kathy, they come back to work with us.



CARING

When 900 students and 60 staff took part in BUPA's dementia training, we became the UK's first whole school to become 'Dementia Friends'.



For more information contact us on

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 reception@aldergrange.com

 www.aldergrange.com

 @AlderGrange

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