Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with a real sense of pride in our Year 11 students (who completed their GCSE examinations in the summer of 2017) that I am able to confirm to you their hard work, along with that of their teachers, resulted in the best set of results the academy has ever produced in its history. Our Progress 8 score is 0.21 which when compared to the national average of 0 is truly reflective of the journey we have embarked upon towards being outstanding as an academy. It is also very clear that compared to many other schools across Dorset, we have outperformed them and you can obtain further information about this by clicking onto <https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables>,

It is equally with a real sense of pride, that I have seen our next generation of students begin their Year 7 education with us. 114 young people made the choice to join the academy in September 2017 which is a huge increase on the 46 who made that choice in 2015. All of our new students have been working hard and taking advantage of the opportunities that St Aldhelm’s Academy has to offer and I feel very proud when I see them working so diligently in their lessons.

Our curriculum remains incredibly diverse and our Year 9 students have started their GCSE courses with enthusiasm, motivation and confidence. We are still offering a broad choice of subjects from the very academic History, Geography and Languages to the creativity within Drama, Music, Art and Photography. Vocational options have also been selected by some students, including Service Maintenance, Hair and Beauty, Catering and Child Development. There really does remain something for everyone and it will be very interesting to see what our Year 8 students select for their GCSE options later on this year.

Our current Year 11 students are working hard to complete their final studies prior to next year’s exams and are about to embark on their careers package. This will involve a 1-1 meeting with a professional careers adviser, our careers fayre which now attracts over fifty exhibitors and their mock 1-1 interviews. We aim to ensure every Year 11 students has a post 16 course allocated to them by the end of the autumn term.

Our Year 10 students are equally busy preparing for a taste of what life might be like post St Aldhelm’s Academy as they continue to arrange their work placements for the Easter of 2018. A number of students have already achieved a ‘job’ and we aim for a 100% of students to be out on a work placement for the two weeks prior to the Easter break.

Our development of the performing arts at St Aldhelm’s Academy continues apace. Students have visited the back stage operations of the Poole Lighthouse as part of our partnership with this organisation, getting a real insight into what it takes to run a production. Our choir is singing beautiful harmonies on a Friday afternoon and preparing for one of their biggest performances to date on the 30th November at the Poole Lighthouse when they will be performing with other schools at the Poole Schools’ Music Association – an amazing experience for all. Our dancers are also going through their auditions for the Rock Challenge

that is being held next year and involves schools competing against each other from across Dorset.

I have no doubt that our professional dance studio will be in full use over the coming months as they practise their dance routines. It has also been great to see street dancing taking place in the studio at lunchtimes, particularly amongst the boys as it is a great way to stay fit and burn energy!

As always, everything we do can also only happen with your support as parents and carers. We really appreciate all that you do for us and we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that your sons and daughters achieve the very best for themselves not just academically but personally as well, reflecting our strong belief that the purpose of education is to develop the ‘whole’ child.

Have a great half term and I look forward to welcoming back our students on Tuesday 31st October.

Yours faithfully



Jon Webb

Principal

