



8th September 2025

Re: Start of Year Update – September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you all had an enjoyable summer break and have also enjoyed sending your children back to us for the start of the new term. Please see below for a number of updates on school issues.

Summer

The **record breaking Year 11 results** for Class of 2025 were the best that the school has even seen. The proportion of students achieving Grade 4's in English and Maths rose from 61% to 72%, which is excellent. The number of students achieving grade 5's in English and Maths also rose from 43% to 49%, with students average grade over their 8 counting subjects increasing towards Grade 5.

	4+ Eng & Maths	5+ Eng & Maths	A8
2023	59%	32%	3.85
2024	61%	43%	4.20
2025	72%	49%	4.62

Alongside these improvements to key headline figures, we saw huge improvements in EVERY performance measure, including those for Boys vs Girls, Disadvantaged students, SEND students and across almost all areas of the curriculum. More details of students celebrating can be found on our school Facebook page, [here](#).

ITV news also paid us a visit to report on the overall school success, as well as individuals who had achieved great things. This can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Our STEM team also came second in the Wells Carnival Float Competition and there are some equally brilliant photos of this on the school Facebook page.

We also saw the safe return of our French/Spanish Overseas Residential Trip, as well as our Tall Ships sailing adventure. We are very grateful to the staff who gave their time to make these happen – particularly when dealing with high levels of sickness! - and for the exceptional behaviour and attitudes of the students.

We also had our inaugural APHS Music Tour to Germany, which was a phenomenal success. The students were exemplary in their conduct and played to delighted audiences in professional concert venues. Thank you to Mr Howell for driving this, and for all of the school and peripatetic staff who supported this to make it happen.

Students

We would like to congratulate all students on the way that they have returned to start the new academic year, especially our new Year 7 cohort who have been fantastic in their first few days with us properly.

We also welcome the considerable number of new starters in other year groups, transferring from other schools.

The feeling around school has been exceptional and can be seen in the achievement points that have already been given out by staff (and the tiny portion – less than 1% - of negative points) as a result:

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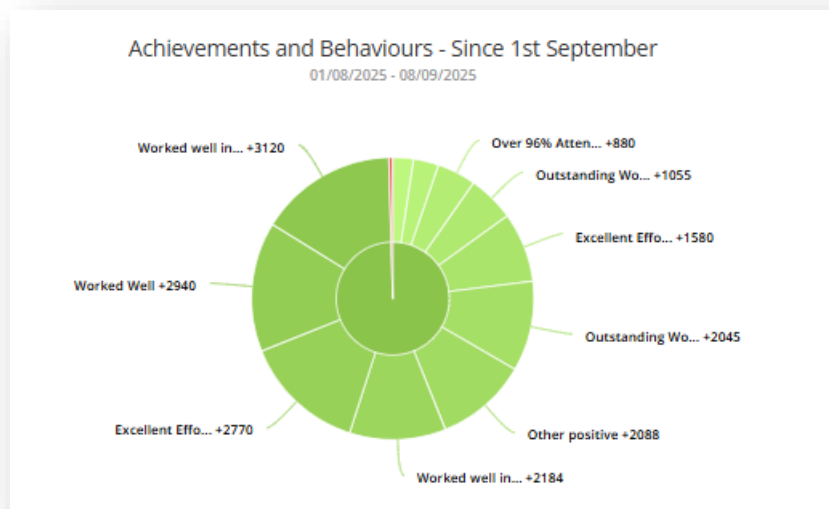
Alderman Peel High School

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We would also like to thank parents for their support with how outstanding the appearance of students has been. Their uniform looks superb and there have been only a few exceptions where shoes, skirts or hair colour have needed addressing. What an amazing start, which we will be ensuring continues throughout the year.

For help with the SIMS or ClassCharts Parents Apps, please email datamanager@aldermanpeel.norfolk.sch.uk

September Information Events

You should have already received an [invitation](#) to a Year Group Information Event on the following dates:

- Year 7 Monday 15th September: 16:30 – 17:30 (to include the Residential Weekend information)
- Year 8 & 9 Wednesday 17th September: 16:30 – 17:30
- Year 10 & 11 Thursday 18th September: 16:30 – 17:30

These events will give you the opportunity to meet your child's form tutor as well as receive crucial information about key dates for the year ahead, as well as information about school systems and policies.

Staffing

I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on some key staffing information for the start of term:

- In the summer term, we appointed three new full-time, non-teaching, Heads of Year to help further develop the pastoral care that we provide students at APHS. These will become a crucial first port of call in the case of any positive and negative issues that arise during your students' time in school. We are very excited about these new roles and they are being fulfilled by the following staff:
 - Head of Year 6 & 7 – Mrs M Jagger
 - Head of Year 8 & 9 – Mrs M Somerton
 - Head of Year 10 & 11 – Mrs R Boyd-Stevenson

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- Following Mr Tawana's retirement, members of the Senior Leadership Team have added the following roles to their leadership responsibilities:
 - Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – Mr M Hardman (Principal)
 - Pupil Premium Lead – Mrs K Hardman (Assistant Principal)
 - Look After Children Lead – Mr S Brett (Assistant Principal and SENDCo)
 - Careers Information and Guidance – Mrs H Barker (Assistant Principal)
- The following staff have also received promoted posts:
 - Safeguarding Manager (and Deputy DSL) – Mrs E Sperry
 - Attendance Officer – Mrs A Thompson
- Following Mr Wilding's departure, we also have the following changes at leadership levels:
 - Head of Faculty for PE and Expressive Arts – Miss C Beech
 - Lead Teacher of PE – Miss D Steward
- I am delighted to announce that Mrs Hudson-Brown is also increasing to a full-time Teaching Assistant.
- By now you will have received the [letter](#) outlining the circumstances regarding Mr Lindsey Waajen, APHS Site Team. APHS will be closed on Friday 12th September to mark the funeral of this much-loved colleague.
- Mrs Johnson (Teacher of Geography) remains off work due to long-term illness. Mrs Spencer-Amis (Geography and English specialist) has been secured to cover her absence in the short-term to provide much needed stability and consistency for students. We continue to wish Mrs Johnson all the best.
- We will soon be advertising and appointing to the following roles:
 - School Receptionist – Part time, permanent (external vacancy)
 - Teaching Assistant – Full time, 2-year fixed-term (external vacancy)
 - Assistant SENDCo – Part-time, permanent (internal vacancy)

Site

The Site Team and Network Teams have worked tirelessly throughout the summer to improve the school site. This includes:

- Refurbishment of School Canteen
- Refurbishment of school corridors
- Refurbishment and changes to office spaces
- Refurbishment of stairs up to English and Maths classrooms, including sky lights.
- Refurbishment of corridor and stairs leading up to Art, Music, Drama and Catering.
- Removal of temporary classrooms
- Installation of new lockers
- Improvements to CCTV
- Improvements to the computer network

We have also appointed a new Catering company, Aspens. The quality and variety of the food has been superb so far, and students have been very mature and patient while queuing as new systems take the time to embed.

There will be further information regarding catering added to the school website in due course.

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Systems and ICT

Unfortunately, we have experienced a number of technical glitches related to the school Management Information System (SIMS), as well as other systems which connect to this (such as ClassCharts, ScoPay, Parents Evening System, etc). This has been out of our control and a source of frustration for us all.

Our network and data teams, both in school and at the Trust Central Team have worked very hard with these companies to try and overcome these issues, many of which seem to have also happened in other schools.

We are confident that we have resolved most of these issues, but if you are concerned that something still does not appear properly when logging into school systems then please [contact us](#).

School Term Dates

Our term dates for this year and next can be found on the APHS Website, here:

- [APHS Term Dates 2025-26](#)
- [APHS Term Dates 2026-27](#)

As previously mentioned, please note that **APHS will be closed on Friday 12th September**.

Please pay close attention to term dates when considering holidays and family trips as we are not able to authorise these events during term time. Absence of this nature could lead to fixed penalty notices and court proceedings, which we all wish to avoid.

Attendance is vitally important and there will be lots of further information on how to support good levels of school attendance as we progress through this term and the year as a whole.

School Uniform

As previously stated, the overall standard of uniform and appearance has been outstanding upon our return. Thank you for your support with this and thank you for your patience when our suppliers have struggled to meet demand.

Throughout the year, please take the time to re-familiarise yourself with our school uniform and appearance expectations. These can be found on the APHS website, here: [APHS Uniform and Appearance Expectations](#).

More detail can also be found in this letter which has previously been sent, here: [APHS Uniform Letter](#)

Uniform can be purchased via Birds of Dereham on their website, here: [Birds of Dereham](#)

We are very excited about the year ahead and are looking forward to working with you all for another exceptional year at Alderman Peel High School.

Mr M Hardman
Principal

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