



**Aldenham**  
founded 1597

September 2007

Dear Parents,

It has been very good to welcome all the pupils back to the school and to see how well they have adapted to the new school timetable. There have already been many positive comments about the crisp start to the teaching day and the more suitable length of lessons for senior school pupils.

I hope that you had the chance to catch up via the school website on the significant successes of our boys and girls who were completing public examinations in the summer, but if you didn't manage to do so, may I highlight the key points that 55% of all our A Level grades were achieved at A or B grade with a number of pupils gaining 3, 4, or 5 A grades; as a result of this our students are now beginning courses at universities across the country including Bath, Bristol, Cambridge, Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham, and in London at Imperial College, Kings College and University College. Rob Lee, our School Captain of last year will read dentistry and Ben Griffiths, medicine. Our Y11 students performed extremely well with 96% gaining 5 A\*-C passes and a third of the year group gaining 5 or more A/A\* grades. I congratulate all the pupils and staff on these achievements.

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We are able to welcome a number of new staff this term and they have already begun their work in the classrooms and houses. Mr David Chorley is the new Head of Mathematics, Ms Veronica Berry the new Head of Learning Support, and the Rev Dan Bond our new Chaplain. Ms Lorraine Matthews and Mr Tom Kupfer will teach Science, Ms Cara Macdonald, Design Technology and Miss Anna Cushing, Classics. During Mrs Layton's maternity leave, Miss Kara Davidson will be Head of Girls' Games and our new UVA fellow is Mr Steve Hiltner. I am also delighted to welcome back to the school Mr John Barnard who taught German very successfully here a few years ago. You will also be aware that there are new Housemasters in Kennedy's (Mr Pietrek), McGill's (Mr Dunstan), and Riding's (Mr Stephenson). I know that parents in these houses will be welcoming them to their new roles.

May I remind you that each of the houses has a specific social evening early this term when I will be making a presentation about the new theatre and I hope that many of you will have those dates in your diary. The opening of the theatre and the first production within it will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of this term, but I would also recommend that you note the date of the House Music Competition on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October which will follow the format of last year and be open to parents and friends in the Sports Hall. The change to the working week and the new Saturday activities programme is detailed in the calendar which accompanies this letter, but may I take this opportunity to remind you that it is very important that we ask all pupils to be present for three Saturdays in the year – Visitation Day in June and the summer and autumn Open Afternoons. This term's Open Afternoon is on **Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup>** and we plan to run coaches to school on that day to arrive at around 1.00 p.m.. All pupils need to be in attendance for this important day in the school calendar.

I was very pleased to be able to talk to a large number of parents at my parents' forum last term. One of the issues raised was the development of a parental area of the school website which will provide a valuable conduit for parents to see information about the school and its programme. I am pleased to say that this area is now ready for use and the main parental handbook is already in place there. Other documents of interest will be placed there for your consultation or advice. In order to view the parents area you should go to [www.aldenham.com](http://www.aldenham.com) and click the login button on the top right hand corner. You need to enter the username **parents** and password **rplatt1597**. As I said at the forum I would welcome suggestion for content which you would like to be available on the parental area. For much of our communication with parents though I would like to continue to increase our usage of email and would be grateful if you would confirm your email address to us at [enquires@aldenham.com](mailto:enquires@aldenham.com) if you have a new or amended email address.

This has already been a significant year for the school with the arrival of our first pupils transferred from the Prep School and the fact of now having girls and boys in every year group of the school. A good start has been made and I look forward, as I am sure you do, to monitoring the progress of the pupils over the next ten months. I hope that we will have a chance to meet at one of the house receptions or another event this term, but thank you for your continuing support for the school.

Yours sincerely



James Fowler

**Key dates this term:**

House Theatre Receptions:-

Kennedy's	11 <sup>th</sup> September
Riding's	18 <sup>th</sup> September
McGill's	27 <sup>th</sup> September
Leeman's	4 <sup>th</sup> October
Paull's	10 <sup>th</sup> October
Beevor's	11 <sup>th</sup> October
Martineau's	16 <sup>th</sup> October (Year 7)
Martineau's	6 <sup>th</sup> November (Year 8)

These will all take place in the School Library at 7.00 p.m.

New Parents' Evening:	26 <sup>th</sup> September 7.00 p.m.
House Music Competition:	18 <sup>th</sup> October
School Play:	29 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> November, 1 <sup>st</sup> December
Carol Service:	6 <sup>th</sup> December 7.00 p.m. St Albans Abbey
Half Term:	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October to Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November
End of term:	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> December