

Feedback to you following the questionnaires from 2015-16 Parental Consultation Evenings.

Thank you to the many parents/carers who filled in our questionnaires at the consultation evenings last year. Please find a summary of the key points you made, with our responses to them. We look forward to working with you this year to develop the school further.

Aspects of the school you are happy about	
<p>The vast majority of responses showed that students feel happy and safe at Alderbrook.</p> <p>You feel we deal with bullying and friendship issues promptly.</p> <p>The vast majority of you feel that teaching is strong, positive behaviour is well supported and the school is well led and managed.</p>	
Your main suggestions for improvement	Our response
<p>The majority of you find the progress checks informative and useful, and appreciate the three different reports rather than one. However, you would like a balance between advice and praise in the comments.</p>	<p>Rather than just progress data provided at intervals with one long report at some point in the year, during 2015-16, we moved to a system where teachers write three short reports in the form of a target or advice, and these are spread throughout the year. The reports are shorter but aim to be more incisive in terms of helping students know what to do to improve at regular intervals. Staff this year will aim to provide useful praise as well as advice as part of their comments. To this end, we hope the reports will provide appropriately balanced feedback. The final report of the year also aims to provide a comment about the individual student by the form tutor.</p> <p>We will ask you what you feel about these improvements during the next year. This is a new system and we want to make sure you are happy and that you and your child find the information useful.</p>
<p>Some of you feel that homework could be set more frequently or be more challenging.</p>	<p>We agree with you that homework should be set regularly, particularly to prepare students for the increasing number of linear examinations. Challenge and types of homework tasks will be an area of focus for us during this academic year. Staff and governors have already started to identify how we can improve this important area of learning.</p>
<p>You feel that there could be a wider variety of options to reward students.</p>	<p>We are conscious that praise is as an important and invaluable motivator for students. We have developed more formal 'praise' opportunities throughout the year, including a 'subject braid' system to allow more students to receive awards across the curriculum. Also we have developed our reward assemblies each term for students who receive high numbers of 'credits' for their class work, homework and overall effort. Gold, silver and bronze certificates for high effort and behaviour scores after progress checks have also been</p>

	<p>introduced. The school has recently invested in a programme called 'Class Charts' which allows staff to 'credit' students for their learning and behaviour in class.</p>
<p>You would like to be made more aware of the clubs and opportunities open to students.</p>	<p>All our clubs are posted on the school website under 'students' and 'after school sessions', but we will make sure that parents/carers are aware when this has been updated. Letters need to be signed by parents/carers if students have permission to attend clubs.</p>
<p>Around 15% of you feel that your child needs more careers guidance.</p>	<p>Careers guidance has been developed in a number of different ways. All year 11s, all Sixth Form students and some year 10s and 9s will have the opportunity for careers interviews with two independent careers advisers who visit the school twice a week. All years will receive talks led by these advisers, informing them at key points about their choices and options for the future. During Life Ready Days, all students in all years will meet employers from the local area, and in form time, they will have time to reflect on their developing employability skills and develop a professional profile as they move through school. In particular, year 10s will have some carefully designed Life Ready Days considering a wide range of career choices.</p> <p>Parents and local employers play a big part in these days, so any parents who would like to support us by talking to our students about their career path and experiences, please get in touch with K. Read, Assistant Head teacher.</p> <p>Please look out for our career's newsletter is published regularly, alongside the school's existing newsletter. This will be particularly useful for students considering their post 16 choices.</p>
<p>Around 12% of you are not sure who you need to speak to when you call in.</p>	<p>If you explain your enquiry on the phone, our receptionist will know where to direct your call. The form tutor will usually be the first port of call for most issues, and will then support you to work with any other staff needed to resolve anything. They are also the teacher who will know your child best, and who will see your child every day to support them with any worries they may have.</p> <p>It is also reasonable to contact a subject teacher or the Curriculum Leader for a subject directly if you have any questions about a particular subject. If you would prefer and for quick questions or concerns, you can write a note to any of the teachers in the student planner – addressed to the form tutor or class teacher, and ask your child to present this to them.</p> <p>Your child will also have a pastoral manager who supports the behaviour of students in a 'college', and you could also contact them directly via the main office number: 0121 704 2146. You can also email the office: office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk. Your contact will then be forwarded to the relevant person.</p>