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Newsletter

w/e Friday 25th January 2019

Heads Up



Christmas seems a distant memory now on our third week into the new Spring term, but I hope the break was enjoyable and has allowed our students to return to school with renewed enthusiasm for their learning.

A lovely start to the New Year!

We are delighted to share James Gordon's news of an offer from St Catherine's College, Oxford to read Geography this September. He becomes 1 of only 10 students accepted by St Catherine's to study Geography in 2019.

In the same week we then learnt of an offer to Jennifer Togneri from Murray Edwards College, Cambridge to read Mathematics this September. She becomes 1 of only 6 students accepted by Murray Edwards to study Maths in 2019. We are immensely proud of all of the Sixth Form students who took part in the rigorous interview process for both universities and offer our sincere congratulations to James and Jennifer for their offers.



Our Year 13s have been sitting their mock exams in January and we wish them well in their continued revision and efforts in the run up to their A level exams in the Summer term.

On another, less happy note, we have received some complaints in our first weeks back to school from our local residents and members of the public about the behaviour of a small number of our students on their journeys to and from school and also inconsiderate parking from some of our parents/carers.

We will be strongly reiterating to our students the importance of courteous, respectful behaviour at all times. Whilst they wear the uniform they represent our school and when identified, sanctions will still be applied for inappropriate behaviour outside school. The incidents involved an elderly member of the community and a parent driving her children in the car and whilst on the surface may seem relatively minor to the students involved, did in fact cause distress and could have had far wider reaching consequences. We would please ask our parents and carers to support our message at home of respect and consideration to our neighbours and wider community so they can be proud of themselves as can you.

Can I also please remind our parents and carers of the utmost importance of communicating with school in an appropriate and courteous manner. Our staff are professional, caring and dedicated to your child's well being and progress at our school. In return it is only right that they should be spoken to with no threat, verbal or otherwise, or aggressive/abusive language. Whilst I appreciate this type of interaction is thankfully very rare, I must stress in the strongest terms that it will not be tolerated at any level and the Parental Engagement policy will be invoked, to the appropriate level, which can include a complete ban for a parent/carer coming onto site. We have the safeguarding and well being of all of our staff and students to consider and this will remain our focus and priority at all times.

Lastly a very important message from me about parking. I appreciate that with a number of schools, primary and secondary, in the immediate area, that parking can be difficult. However, any local residents who are blocked in or experiencing inconsiderate parking are of course at liberty to report this to the Police. There has been a significant improvement in parents/carers dropping off their children and consideration off site and thank you for that co-operation. However, there are still some parents/carers who are coming onto site or turning in the driveway/ parking on the red lines directly outside school. All of these actions have the potential to cause an accident on what is a very busy main road and school site at these key points of the day. Please think of the bigger picture where the health and safety of all our students, staff and other drivers is concerned and if you have to drive to school, find an alternative place to stop and drop off your child. Thank you.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thank you to all our Year 11 students and parent/carers who came out and joined us on what was a very busy evening for us all here in the Sixth Form! We welcomed students from across Solihull and Birmingham and staff were busily answering questions all night. As advertised on the evening, if students would like to get further insight into studying a particular subject then they are welcome to register, via email, to attend any of our taster sessions that staff are running over the coming weeks. If you have any other enquiries regarding life in the Sixth Form please do get in touch at enquiries@alderbrooksixthform.org If you have yet to follow us on Facebook and would like to see the daily ins and outs of Sixth Form life, please Like and Follow us at Alderbrook Sixth Form
Mrs Anna CJ Allen Assistant Headteacher: Director of Sixth Form & IAG



SUBJECT TASTER SESSIONS

Undecided about which A level options are right for you? Torn between subjects? Then why not come along to some of the taster sessions we have planned over the next few weeks! Simply email the relevant teacher to book your place. You can try out as many subjects as you like.

Date	Time	Subject	Location	Book your place by email via
Monday 21 January	3.30-4.15pm	PE	Fitness Suite – Sports Hall	s201cross@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk
Monday 21 January	3.45-4.45pm	Business	M19	s201vmcdonald@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk
Wednesday 23 January	3.15-4.00pm	Geography	C22	s201kmills@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk
Tuesday 29 January	3.45-4.45pm	Psychology	MT7	s201hchauhan@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk
Tuesday 29 January	3.45-4.45pm	Sociology	MT6	s201zhussain@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk
Tuesday 29 January	4.00-5.00pm	Computer Science	M17	s201sbadger@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk
Wednesday 30 January	4.00-5.00pm	Biology Chemistry	C07 C07	s201sbalding@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk s201mtucker@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk – please register by Weds 23 January
Thursday 31 January	3.45-4.45pm	Art & Design	A06	s201jstevens@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk
Monday 4 February	4.00-5.00pm	Politics	G12	s201rhall@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk
Tuesday 5 February	4.00-5.00pm	Drama & Theatre	Gantry Theatre	s201dfewins@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk
Wednesday 6 February	3.45-4.45pm	English Language	M11	s201kdulai@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk s201jhall@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk
Thursday 7 February	4.00-5.00pm	French	G13	s201soliver@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk
Thursday 7 February	4.00-5.00pm	Spanish	G03	s201rszabo@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk
Friday 8 February	3.45-4.30pm	English Literature	M23	s201choward@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk
Tuesday 12 February	4.00-5.00pm	Media Studies	M16	s201smoreton-wright@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk

For those subjects not offering taster sessions, please note you will get the opportunity to participate in an introductory session during our Taster Day in June 2019. This is an event that every student with an offer will be invited to. We hope we will be welcoming you then!

Deadline for applications: Wednesday 13 February 2019

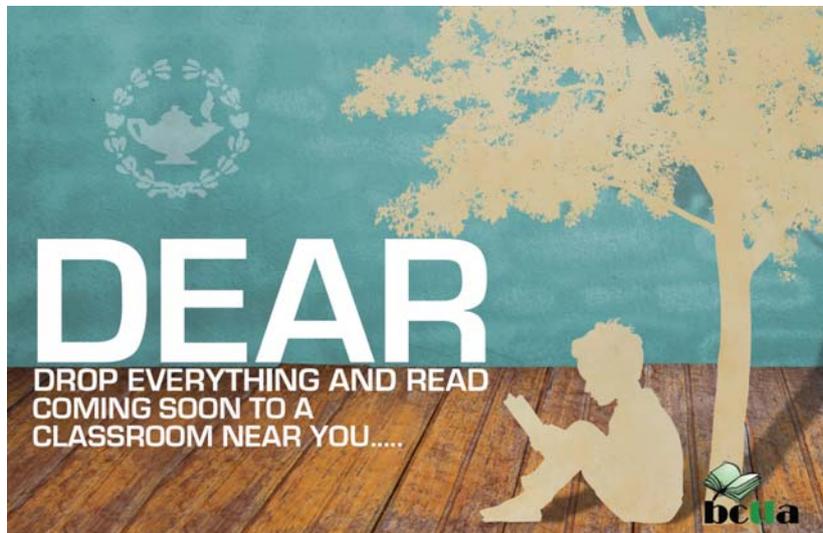
Curriculum News

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 5th of February is Safer Internet Day. The aim of Safer Internet Day is to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully and creatively. This year in the United Kingdom, Safer Internet Day will focus on how consent works in an online context and will ask young people to explore how they ask, give, and receive consent online. The campaign encourages young people to explore how the internet works, who owns the information that is shared on it, and how they can actively take ownership of digital spaces by managing their privacy and data. Students will be learning how to stay safe online through sessions and resources in their form time. As well as this, each student will be provided with a helpful guide on internet safety to discuss with parents or carers at home. *Ms Jones, Associate Assistant Headteacher: Pastoral*

Reading project soon to be launched!

The English Faculty is launching a new and additional reading project across all year 7 and year 8 Students, after the half term break. Students will engage in reading and literacy focussed activities as a means of improving and enhancing a stronger reading culture that is essential for success across all subject areas. Students are being advised to explore new genres, and ensure that they are equipped with a reading book that is age appropriate. Over the next few weeks students will be invited to design a bookmark, whereby the winning design will be chosen and used as the final Bookmark design for each year group! Watch this space!



Calling all parents/carers!

We are looking for parents/carers to be involved in our Careers day on the 17th July. This is a day educating our year 10 students about possible careers for the future. If you or your company would like to deliver workshops or presentations, please do not hesitate to contact the school to book an appointment for that day. We are seeking careers in all fields, and would like to offer the year 10 students a broad range of opportunities. Thank you for any assistance you can offer to support this important event. *Miss Sherrin-Jones and Miss K Newman*

Quizlet

All pupils in French and Spanish have been asked to sign up to this amazing language tool in order to support their learning of new vocabulary. Parents/Carers should have received an email on how to create an account. We would really like all language learners to join their learning group on Quizlet as soon as possible. Go to www.quizlet.com to sign up. It only takes a few seconds! MFL department



Quizlet

www.quizlet.com

Quizlet makes simple learning tools that let you study anything. Start learning today with flashcards, games and learning tools — all for free.

Life Ready Day 30th April

On this day the Year 9s and 10s will be having a presentation from the Teenage Cancer Trust who will share with students the importance of screening and self checking. If there are any parents/carers who would prefer their child not to be in this presentation, please do let us know so that we can make alternative provision for that part of the day. **Ms Read, Deputy Headteacher**

The wonder of nature...

We were very fortunate to recently be the lucky recipient of a donation of assorted trees from the Woodlands Trust. These included Cherry, Rowan and Silver birch and when they are fully grown will be a very special area of our school land to look at and learn from. Several of our year 7 Geography students became our own nature ground team and joined our Facilities Manager in the 'first dig' just before Christmas when the ground was at its optimum best for planting. So thank you to Tyler Beddall, Ciara Wattrus, Liam Morbey, Emily Vedmore, Emily Simons and Bella Broadhurst. As you can see from this picture they had a thoroughly good time planting what will be our new orchard in school and learned about the benefits of trees for flood prevention at the same time – a double win!

Mr McLoughlin, Assistant Head Teacher



Useful information from school

Year 7 Information Evening

This will take place on Thursday 7th February, at 6.00 pm. The session will last around 45 minutes. All Year 7 parents and carers are welcome. The focus will be on how parents/carers can help their child at home, including literacy, numeracy and developing a 'growth mindset'. During this session we will explain how we assess student progress. Some parents will receive letters inviting them to a session slightly earlier, or immediately after this, for more information about literacy and numeracy support. Please do not bring students to this session. Look forward to seeing you there. **Ms Read, Deputy Headteacher**

FREE EVENT: What University? What Career? Apprenticeship? University? Not sure what's next?

Help your child decide what to do after they leave school by visiting What Career Live? and What University Live? at the NEC Birmingham on Saturday 2 March 2019. Admission is free, but you must book tickets in advance. Please link on the following link to find out book about the event and book your tickets:

<https://www.whatcareerlive.co.uk/birmingham>

Mrs Anna CJ Allen, Assistant Head: Director of Sixth Form

Students leaving during the school day

A reminder please that if it is essential for your child to attend an appointment during the school day, they must have a note in their planner from their parent/carer with the date and time of the appointment, requesting to leave their lesson. They cannot be released by their class teacher without this information and may therefore be late for collection by their parent/carer or for the appointment itself. The student will also need to sign out at Pupil Reception before leaving the school site or being collected at Main Reception. Thank you for your cooperation with this important safeguarding requirement.

Solihull Society of Arts events

A night of music!

The SOSage Factory Youth Musical Theatre Group, part of Solihull Society of Arts, is performing 'Popstars, the 90s Musical' at the Core Theatre 28th February to 2nd March 7.30 pm plus Saturday Matinée at 2.30 pm.

Packed with pop smash hits from 90s by artists such as The Spice Girls, Backstreet Boys, N*Sync, Music, dance, scheming and fun ensue as this boy band vs girl band musical provides a 90s jukebox musical spectacular performed by these talented and energetic young people. The show is lively and great fun with more songs than you thought you knew. Do come along for a really fun evening.

Tickets from the Core Theatre Popstars the 90s Musical

Local History Item

The new year starts with a talk on Monday, January 21st on the history of Lapworth church, once described by Nikolaus Pevsner as “a splendid church, not without problems”. The talk will be presented by Peter Hill, noted local historian.

Monday, February 18th sees us host a talk entitled “Misadventure, Mayhem, Murder and Terrorism : tales from St Mary’s, Acocks Green”.

On Monday, March 18th we will hear a brief history of the Birmingham Hippodrome.

Our meetings are held in Solihull Methodist Church Hall, starting at 7.45pm. Entry costs £3, annual membership costing £15. For those joining from January, the membership cost is only £7.50, covering the period until June.

Calendar dates

Reminder to Year 8 Parents/Carers - Options Evening 31st January from 6.00 pm – 8.45 pm, the Options booklet and information letter are on the school website for reference.

<http://www.alderbrookschoo.co.uk/ks4-options/>

Thursday 31st January -	Options Evening
Thursday 7th February -	Year 7 Information Evening
Sunday 10th February -	Table Top Sales
Wednesday 13th February -	Sixth Form Application Deadline
Wednesday 13th February -	Year 8 Consultation Evening
Monday 18th February - Friday 22nd February	Spring Half Term Break

Best wishes,

Dr J Smith
Headteacher

Alderbrook's 'The Edge' Production Tickets
If you would like a ticket for any upcoming events here at Alderbrook's
'The Edge' then please follow this link
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/alderbrookschoo>
Alternatively you can ring the box office on 0121 705 8488