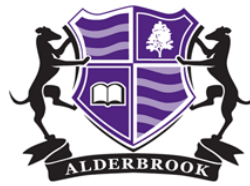


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**Alderbrook
School**
AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS

Email: office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk

Web: www.alderbrookschool.co.uk

ALDERBROOK NEWSLETTER

Edition 1 – December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have all had an opportunity to take a few minutes and visit our new website which was launched at October half term. The website has been designed to be even more 'user friendly' and our home page is regularly updated with Latest News and tweets. We would love to see you following us on Twitter, so just look up @AlderbrookSch, press 'follow' and keep up to date with everything happening in school!

We have a number of ways to contact home which you will be familiar with and these will all continue; from emails and letters home, to tweets and latest news. This newsletter will come out once each half a term as well so please keep an eye out for this.

Communication and dialogue with you all is extremely important to us and we welcome your feedback. Don't forget to use our 'Contact Us' links by going to the Contact button on the home page of the website for general, SEN and absence related enquiries.

This is a long term straight after a six week summer break and we have been very proud of our students for working hard, with assessments and mocks across the year groups and as we speak final rehearsals are in place for this week's Christmas production: Hairspray! Please do buy your tickets if you haven't already, the Drama and Music departments have been working extremely hard with your children and it promises to be an excellent night's entertainment!

Ambition, Bravery and Kindness continue to be school values on which we focus, to ensure that day to day life in school for our students and staff is calm, productive and fruitful and can reflect the enormous efforts that our staff put in to supporting and encouraging your child to be the best that they can be. We thank you as parents and carers also for your support of the school and encouraging your child to respect and engage with our school rules and expectations.

School Information

Options - Year 8 Parents

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I would like to make you aware of some key dates for your son/daughter next year:

Tuesday 21 January 2020 - Options Evening

You will receive a letter shortly after we return from the Christmas break outlining our plans for the evening and inviting you to attend.

Tuesday 28 January 2020 - Year 8 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 12 February 2020 – Options deadline

Following the Options Evening, you and your son/daughter will select their options for years 9-11 online via the SIMS ParentApp. For those parents who have not yet accessed the ParentApp, an activation email was recently sent to you with instructions on how to get started. We would be grateful if you could activate the ParentApp and familiarise yourself with it, ahead of the Options Evening. If you are experiencing difficulties accessing the ParentApp and require assistance, please email parentapp@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk

Should you have any queries, please contact Mrs Browne via options@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 21 January.

Final day of the Autumn Term

As you will know there is an early finish on the last day of term, Friday 20th December 2019. There will be an early lunch at 12.15 and P4 will start at 1.05, with school finishing for the Christmas holidays at 2.05 pm.

There will be a non uniform day on Friday 20th December with a voluntary minimum contribution of £1, to be given to your child's Form Tutor please. This is in aid of The Meningitis Research Foundation.

The 894 and 895 buses to Cheswick Green and Monkspath will arrive on site at the earlier time of 2.05 pm but the 821,822 and 823 to Earlswood, Dickens Heath and Tidbury Green cannot facilitate this earlier time and will arrive at the usual time of 3.05 pm. If your child cannot find an alternative means of transport home at 2.05 pm, please contact us via 201office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk and we will ensure your child remains with us in school until their bus arrives at the usual time.

School will re-convene on **Monday 6th January 2020 at 8.30 am** for staff and students.

Reminder about school uniform

Thank you to our parents and carers for supporting the school in implementing our uniform policy and a polite reminder that trainers and hoodies are NOT permitted items of clothing and should not be worn at school. This includes hoodies under blazers. If your child is receiving either of these items as Christmas gifts, please remind them they are social clothing and not school uniform please.

Appointments during the school day

A reminder please that if you need your child to come out of school during the school day for an appointment you must email or send a letter into school in advance of the appointment and also make a note in your child's planner. This will allow the class teacher to release your child at the appropriate time who will then sign out at Pupil Reception and will need to sign back in on their return. Also, can you please allow sufficient time when coming to collect your child for them to have completed the above as we cannot always guarantee we have capacity to collect your child from a classroom if you are running late. Thank you for your co-operation and support.

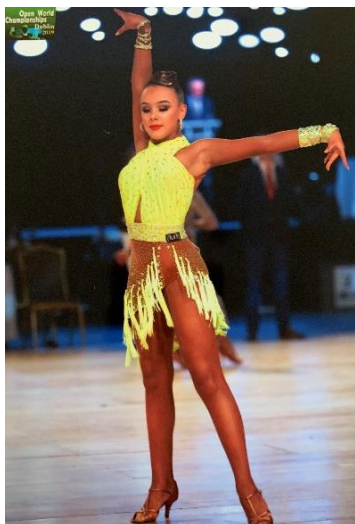
Dates to remember!

Monday 6 January 2020	Return to school for students and staff
Monday 6 January 2020	Year 13 mock exams for two weeks
Sunday 12 January 2020	Table top sale
Monday 13 January 2020	Year 7 Parents' Consultation
Tuesday 21 January 2020	Year 8 Options Evening
Tuesday 28 January 2020	Year 8 Parents' Consultation

Congratulations to.....

Dancing Queen!

Keira Bickley is a very talented dancer and student at Alderbrook and we are delighted to share with you that in the recent December competition held in Dublin, Keira made the Latin and ballroom world under 16 finals and finished 4th in the world in both events!



Keira is also now the Dutch Open under 16 solo Latin champion and also the Dutch Open under 16 solo ballroom champion, giving Keira her first International title.

We're very proud of you Keira! Our very own 'Strictly' Champion! Keep Dancing!

Martial Arts winner!

You may recall we have previously highlighted the achievements of Neve Harvey, a year 8 student who is making incredible strides in the world of martial arts. Neve continues to astonish, recently competing in the International Unity World Games in Nottingham. Neve managed to win her category and become 12-14 year old World Champion, this meant she qualified for the grand finals competing against all age groups. Neve had to do run offs against the 15-17 category winner and after a hard fought competition against a 16 year old girl from Italy, Neve won, with all three judges giving Neve the win. This meant Neve went into the Grand final against some very experienced older international competitors. Neve eventually finished 3rd in the Grand finals which is an astounding achievement as she is only 12 years old.

Neve also entered the tricks battle as the only female competitor and landed a move called a dub, on the hard floor, something that no other female competitor her age has ever landed in the UK, making her the youngest ever female to land this move. Off the back of this competition Neve has already had offers to be flown out to Italy to demonstrate her skills.



Amazing job Neve – keep going!

Alderbrook keeps growing!

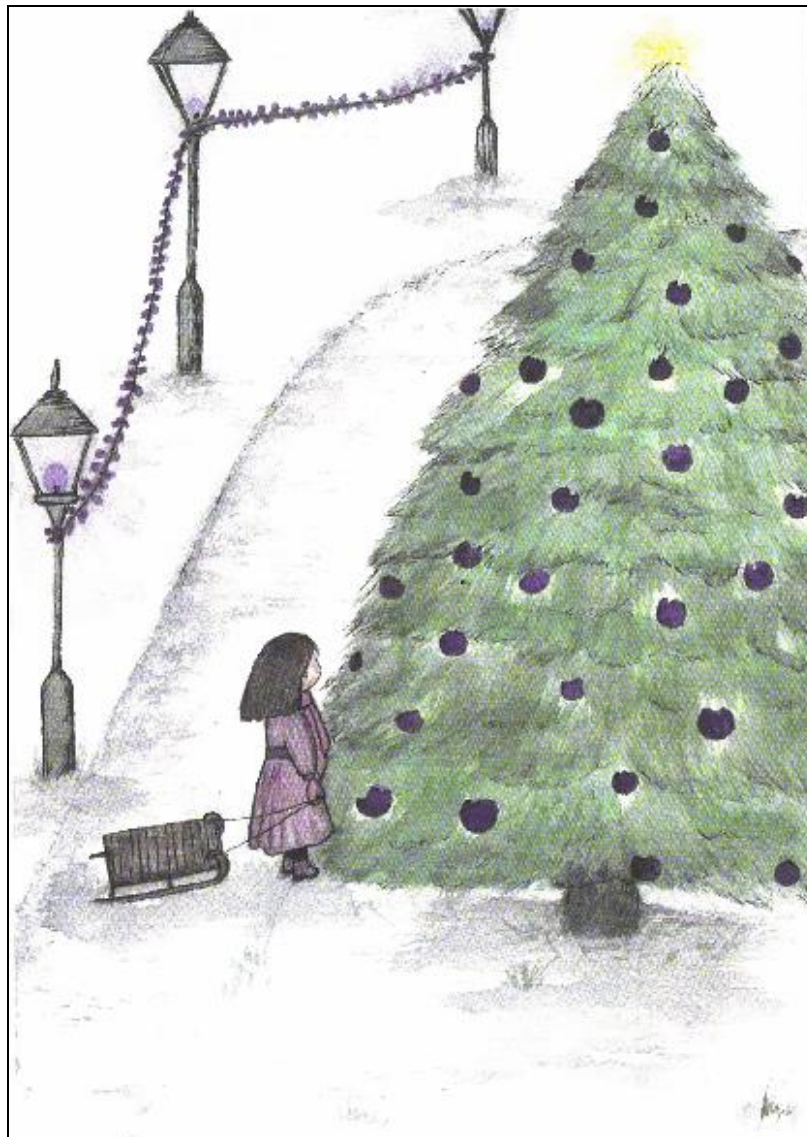


Our new building of 7 purpose built classrooms is nearly complete and looks amazing. A vote of students, parents/carers and staff has named our new block the Archer Clive building after a former Rector of Solihull who did much for the local area, building Shirley Church in 1831 and Shirley School in 1836.

Christmas is coming! (if you hadn't guessed!)



Congratulations to Imogen Smith a Year 12 student who is the winner of this year's Christmas Card pick. Imogen beat off strong competition with her lovely Christmas theme that had a touch of Alderbrook purple. Well done Imogen and thank you!



Curriculum News.....

Food Cube gets 'wrapped' by Art!

Our grey block of steel called the 'Food Cube' that sits on the playground has finally been given a vibrant new skin! Year 12 students had produced studies of fruit and foods with Mrs Stevens and Mrs Myatt some 18 months ago as part of an A level drawing project and now the art work has been fully formatted by Mrs Foden and with support from IT it was printed and wrapped. Wrapping it was a fun task. We hope it lasts for a few years. We are now looking to apply the process to other things!



Luke Burton Sculptor & Art Dept.

I was approached with an opportunity to work with Luke Burton a local Birmingham sculptor. He has an ambitious plan unfolding involving his sculpture and Birmingham Broad Street Plaza. He has been commissioned to produce a sculpture and wanted the community including school students to be involved with some of the drawings supporting the project. We are currently producing drawings based on the key components hands and bricks. The sculpture is made up of steel cast bricks that can be personalised to a company or organisation. Alderbrook Art department is involved in this community project as it is unravelling and I will update you as time goes on. Luke has works at the NEC and Sculpture Park and 'The Connection' will be the project's identity.

To view some of our talented student's art work so far from year 9 and 10, please go to <https://www.alderbrookschool.co.uk/connectionartwork/>

Mrs S Roundell, Head of Art & Design

Solihull Society of Arts

Solihull Society of Arts has been meeting at Alderbrook School since 2002. We have six thriving sections - Art, Recorded Music, Local History, Drama, SOSage Factory (youth musical theatre group ages 9-18) and Solihull on Stage (adult musical theatre group).

Art meets fortnightly on Mondays in the Edge for a variety of demonstrations, talks or practical sketching evenings with a model and/or still life.

The Recorded Music Circle meets fortnightly in M06 on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7.30 pm. Listen to recordings of music in good company presented by one of the members. Visitors are most welcome.

Local History meets on the 3rd Monday of each month when a talk on local history is given by a visiting speaker or member. They meet at the Solihull Methodist Church Hall.

Drama has just finished a successful run of 'Aladdin' and are now rehearsing for 'Dick Whittington'.

Solihull on Stage meets on Thursdays at 7.30 pm in the Edge and are just starting rehearsals for 'All Shook Up' (based around Elvis songs) to be performed next April. Pop along if you are interested. (Over 16s only)

SOSage Factory is our youth musical theatre group who meet on Saturday afternoons at Knowle United Reformed Church. Rehearsals are starting for 'Oklahoma' to be performed in February. (Age 9-18)

We would be pleased to see you at any of our meetings, rehearsals or performances and more details are on our website www.solihullarts.co.uk

It only remains for me, the governors and the staff to wish all of our families a very happy and relaxing break and see you all again in 2020! Dr J Smith, Headteacher