

Newsletter

Curriculum News... In January Sixth Form students were reminded of our whole school values of **Ambition, Bravery and Kindness** by their Heads of Year during year group assemblies. For those still relatively new to our school, 'Alderbrook' is often shortened to **ABK** – much like our social media hashtag #ABKSixth! All communities teach and transmit values; in many ways, this is the deepest purpose of a school. Ambition, Bravery and Kindness sit alongside our Sixth Form motto of Inspiring Minds: Fulfilling Potential. As a Sixth Form community, we look to embed our values in all the work we do both inside and outside the classroom. The assemblies served as great reminders as to why we uphold such high expectations of our Sixth Form students in all aspects of their well-rounded education, as they reach for success.

January seemed to fly by and with it the Year 13 A-Level - *and a few Year 12 AS* - mock examination experience! As tough as that process may have been, they really are the best way to test students' understanding and exam technique, as well as being an indicator of performance in the summer. This means that for some, the results will be a genuine boost to their confidence whereas a few will have, perhaps, a bit of a tangible reminder that they should be working harder in the coming weeks and months. Year 13 reports are due home this month with current predicted grades. Please spend some time going through this together and ensuring students understand the feedback from staff and begin to put that advice into practice. For both year groups, the clock is quickly ticking ahead of the examination season! Don't forget all the subject areas run extra support sessions either on a lunchtime or afterschool and we would *really* encourage students to begin to attend regularly if they are not already doing so. Last month, Mrs Allen sent all students, via email, a fully dated excel revision timetable and we hope that students will find it useful.

In a short break away from the constant that is A Level study, we are looking forward to the annual Sixth Form Cultural Tour in a couple of weeks to Bruges in Belgium! Mr Bryan has worked tirelessly on a busy, action packed five day itinerary and it is always lovely for students and staff to share time together outside of our usual routine. As always we will be updating the Alderbrook Sixth Form Facebook page whilst we are away so parents/carers and friends can be kept informed of our adventures.

Finally, we would like to thank parents/carers for your continued support in ensuring all of our young people observe our high expectations. We know that when the same messages are conveyed and reinforced positively at home, students are much more likely to have an enjoyable and successful Sixth Form experience that ultimately sees them move on to a bright future.

****'Technically Impressive' WINNERS! Bank of England Film Competition: Bank, Camera, Action 2019/20****

Bank, Camera, Action is an annual film competition for UK school students. The topic this year was 'Climate change – never too small to make a big difference'. Many economic activities impact the environment, such as burning coal, oil and gas; a threat to the environment is also a threat to the economy. Students up and down the country entered a wonderful range of creative films that included everything from news articles and interviews to cartoons and dance! We were absolutely delighted then, given the quality of the competition, to receive the news that our boys in Year 13 - **Rajun Madahar, Eathan Downes, Matt Gardner and Oliver Rutherford** won the above category. Their efforts mean the Sixth Form gains a massive £500 to spend on filmmaking equipment, a trophy and they each receive a £25 Amazon voucher. If you have yet to watch their short film, then please click on the following link and scroll down the page: <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/education/competitions/bank-camera-action/bank-camera-action-2019-20>

What Career Live? What University Live? Friday 28 February 2020

Letters went home about the above Sixth Form careers trip to The NEC last week. Places are limited to 60, so if you think your child would benefit please make sure they return the consent slip asap. Places cost only £7.50. With exhibitors ranging from top employers, training providers and universities, if students are looking for inspiration about what to do next, they'll find it here! *If your child is in Year 12 and currently in receipt of the 16-19 Bursary a place for them will be funded and no payment will be due.*

Year 12 students complete UCAS point boosting Extended Project Qualification!

As many parents/carers are aware, the EPQ is an independent research project which could take the form of a written dissertation; an artefact (like a sculpture, model or DVD); developing and showcasing a performance (sport, drama or music) or conducting an investigation/field study. As the project evolves/develops, students complete a production log to record specific stages/progress of the project and this also contributes to the project completion. The third component of the project is an oral presentation. Students gaining the EPQ can bank up to 28 UCAS points (A*) and an increasing number of top universities are reducing offers for those with good EPQ grades. Students benefit from expert EPQ tutors in Mrs Myatt, Mrs Dulai and Ms Stevens, with our current Year 13 students achieving 60% A* grades in 2019!

Key information for 2019/20 students... deadline for all artefacts and written responses is fast approaching - Friday 28 February. This should also include the Production Log completed to the End Product review page. Deadline for completed EPQs – including ALL components – is Friday 20 March 2020.

Competition Time!

Competitions are an important means by which students can expand knowledge and enhance learning. If applying for a particular subject at university, undertaking an essay or practical competition is a good way to deepen understanding of a field. If you intend on applying to Oxbridge and/or top Russell Group Universities essay competitions are excellent preparation. Give one a go!

Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge – Year 12 ESSAY Competition. *The 2019 WINNER of the Archaeology Essay was awarded to Year 13 student Izzy Fahey, now in receipt of an offer from Fitzwilliam to study with them in September 2020!* Titles for the 2020 essay competitions are now available. This annual essay competition gives current Year 12 students the exciting opportunity to embark on their own independent research and demonstrate their enthusiasm for their subject. They are running essay competitions this year in: **Ancient World/Classics, Archaeology and Land Economy.** The deadline for applications to the Land Economy, Archaeology, and Classics competitions is **Monday 23 March.** Please visit the following link for the titles and online entry forms: <https://www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/admissions/events-prospective-students/essay-competitions>

Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge – Year 12 DESIGN Competition. This is aimed at students interested in **ARCHITECTURE** and are likely to be studying Art. This is an exciting opportunity to analytically approach a design problem and creatively develop architectural design solutions. Students will design and communicate their design solutions through drawings and a design narrative. Entries must be received by **11 May 2020.** Please visit: <https://www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/admissions/events-prospective-students/essay-competitions> for a copy of the design brief and other necessary resources.

The Financial Times and Political Studies Association are pleased to announce their 2020 student blog competition open! *In 2019 BOTH FIRST and SECOND prize in this competition were awarded to Year 13 students Dan Harrison and Callum Devereux – why not give it a go!* They are seeking creative and forward thinking ideas from **16-19 year olds** in this joint competition to find the best political blog. Students from across the UK are invited to **write 500-600 words** by **Friday 8th May** on 'Does the public expect too much of UK Politicians?' Students should aim to demonstrate excellent writing skills; presenting a well-reasoned argument, individuality and where appropriate backing up their arguments with relevant data and research. The winning blog will be published on the FT, the PSA Blog and printed in the PSA's

magazine, Political Insight. Entrants will be invited to an awards ceremony in June. <https://www.psa.ac.uk/student-blog-competition>

Global Sustainable Development Competition, University of Warwick. Global Sustainable Development hosts an annual competition for Year 12 students across the country, encouraging students to think creatively and gain valuable research skills as they learn more about global sustainable development. This is an exciting opportunity for students to express their creativity on this cutting edge and vitally important topic. Entrants must respond to set Global Sustainable Development questions in their own way. They can **write essays, take photos, create podcasts or videos**. Shortlisted entrants will be invited to a Campus Day at Warwick where the winner will be announced. **Deadline Friday 12 April.** For more information and to see the quality of last year's winning entry visit: <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/gsd/engagement/gsdcompetition/>

Reminders:

- Letters regarding **Year 12 Work Experience** have been sent home. Well done to those who have already returned their paperwork! If your child has not yet organised a placement please encourage them to spend some time doing this. The sooner the better as placements go quickly with businesses only offering opportunities to limited numbers. Please have a look at the opportunities listed in this, and earlier, newsletters!
- Please ensure that your son/daughter is checking their Sixth Form email accounts regularly. Many opportunities are signposted through this system.
- Students must wear **smart footwear** to Sixth Form on business dress days Monday – Thursday. As a safeguarding measure they must also **wear their yellow lanyards and ID** when on our school site.

Important February Dates

Thurs 13 – Mon 17 Feb: Cultural Sixth Form Tour to Bruges

Sat 15 Feb: Half-term begins

Mon 24 Feb: Spring Term 2 begins

Weds 26 Feb: Enrichment Fold Down – we welcome John Hajdu Holocaust Survivor to address students

Thurs 27 Feb: A Level Drama students, matinee performance of 'Faust' at The Rep, Birmingham

Fri 28 Feb: What University? What Career? Trip to the NEC (return by period 4)

CAREERS INFORMATION...

Upcoming opportunities...

WHEN LOOKING AT THE FOLLOWING PLEASE REMEMBER **YEAR 12 END OF YEAR EXAMINATIONS** (in addition to any external AS examinations) ARE **Monday 15 June – Friday 26 June 2020**.

University College Birmingham OPEN DAY

UCB are holding University Open Days about their degree courses on **Saturday 28 March 2020 10-3pm** and **Saturday 27 June 2020**. Book your place at <https://www.ucb.ac.uk/our-courses/undergraduate/open-days/open-days.aspx>

Medicine Taster Day at Cardiff University will open for bookings this week on Wednesday 5 February! If you're interested in studying medicine then this is a great opportunity as the days are FREE and are full of hands-on workshops and subject specific lectures which will help with your knowledge base. The confirmed date is **Saturday 20 June 2020**. <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/medicine/courses/undergraduate/open-days>

The **University of Warwick's Medical School** is holding a Taster Day for Year 12 students on **Friday 13 March 2020** who are thinking about studying the **BSc Health and Medical Sciences degree**. Find out at this dedicated Taster Day how their new undergraduate BSc Health and Medical Sciences degree can help today's

big thinkers impact the future of health care. In response to a changing and challenging landscape, the BSc Health and Medical Sciences course creates an exciting opportunity to explore health from multiple perspectives, helping to find solutions for some of the world's most complex problems. <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/med/study/ug/hms/events/taster/>

Russell Group **University of Leeds** are offering a range of Year 12 Taster Days this coming Spring/Summer: **Psychology; Allied Health Professions; Nursing, Midwifery & Social Care; Applying to Dental School** <https://www.healthsciences.leeds.ac.uk/events/>

Every year, **UCL** runs a number of **FREE Residential Summer Schools for Year 12 state school students**. The Summer Schools offer a taste of studying a degree programme and of university life. For some courses there is certain eligibility criteria which can be found on the website. Courses running are 3-7 August: **Architecture, Arts & Sciences, Biosciences, Chemical Engineering, Philosophy**; 17-21 August **Archaeology, Astrophysics, Fine Art, Geography, History and Natural Sciences**. Find out more here: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/widening-participation/learners/year-12-and-13/year-12-residential-summer-school>

Year 12 Discover Bath Residentials! Discover Bath are on-campus residential summer schools which will give you a taste of first year study at the University of Bath, and **applications are now open**. During your stay on campus you will take part in a series of first-year undergraduate lectures, workshops and projects (including laboratory experiments during our Science and Engineering summer schools). Discover Bath summer schools in the following areas: **Monday 6 – Thursday 9 July 2020 Criminology, Economics, Education, Health, Language, Politics, Psychology, Sociology, Brand Management**. Before attending you will complete some pre-work to help you to prepare for Discover Bath, and this will typically include subject-related reading materials. After attending you will complete a project report which will be marked to a first-year undergraduate standard. **If your report meets the required standard and you subsequently apply to study at Bath and receive an offer you will be eligible for an alternative offer.** Students who meet one or more of the Widening Participation Criteria will be eligible for a subsidised, FREE place. Alternatively, if you don't qualify Discover Bath costs £225, which covers the cost of accommodation and food throughout your stay. <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/discover-bath-residentials/>

YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES 2020:

Mathematics & Computer Science, University of Birmingham, Mon 29 Jun-Fri 3 Jul are welcoming applications for a work experience week across the two departments. The week will consist of maths and computer science projects, an introduction to the university, and a university Maths Taster Day. Applicants in year 12 who are studying suitable A Levels (or equivalent), and who are planning to study Mathematics or Computer Science at University level are welcome to apply. The week is FREE but applicants must be able to attend the whole week and make their own travel and sustenance arrangements. Each day will run from about 09:30 to 15:30. To apply, you should send a CV and covering letter, each no longer than one side of A4, to Rachel Burgess, by Saturday 29 February. The CV and Covering Letter should be attached to a polite email explaining who you are and why you're getting in contact, and sent on to Rachel Burgess, Outreach and Schools Liaison Officer, mathsoutreach@contacts.bham.ac.uk. Please note that there are only 25 places.

HS2 – High Speed Two is advertising for work experience opportunities in Birmingham. The placements will run in July or August for one week and are open to students in Year 12. The Birmingham placement will take place in the centre of the city at HS2's Birmingham office in Snow Hill. **Applications close Sunday 9 February** with online assessment beginning the following Monday. Successful applicants will be notified by Tuesday 31 March.

For full details visit:

<https://hs2.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=19001527&tz=GMT%2B00%3A00&tzname=Europe%2FLondon>

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery - Learning Team, 29/06 - 03/07/2020

Find out about the working world and develop your skills and knowledge through their work experience programme. Each year the museum and gallery welcome over 60 people on one or two week work experience placements. We welcome applications from anyone 15 years or over who is not currently in employment. For this work experience placement you will be working with the Learning Team at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. **Closing Date: 17 February 2020.**

<https://birminghammuseumstrust.livevacancies.co.uk/#/job/details/91>

Sixth Form Internship Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) - APPLICATION DEADLINE: 27 March 2020

Dates: Monday 6 – Friday 10 July, Monday 13 – Friday 17 July, Monday 20 – Friday 24 July 2020. IEA provide a dedicated week of work experience for 120 sixth formers in three groups held across the summer. The week includes lectures and discussions with expert economists. There is the chance to hear from people in academia and politics about career opportunities and much more. In addition, at the end of the week, there will be a debate with your fellow interns. To apply, please send a CV and short covering letter to Christiana Stewart-Lockhart at internships@iea.org.uk explaining why you would like to take part in a Sixth Form Internship and which dates are best suited for you.

Solihull Council Work Experience Opportunities

There are many Work Experience opportunities offered through the Council across Departments including Children's Services, Finance, Neighbourhood services, Communications & Marketing, ICT, Architecture and many more. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Tracey Getlevog on 0121 704 6420 or recruitment@solihull.gov.uk

Health Ambassadors at Solihull Hospital

An amazing opportunity from Stephanie Parkes the Work Experience Manager at University Hospitals Birmingham has been offered to our students. Based at Solihull Hospital itself, students have the chance to provide services to patients on a stroke ward to engage them in various activities and help aid their recovery. Individuals will gain and expand both their knowledge and experience within the healthcare profession whilst building confidence and effective team working skills. Please visit <https://www.hefteducation.co.uk/content/health-ambassadors> if interested.

BMW

Local Employer **BMW** offer one-week manufacturing placements; however, they only take on 12 per year (one per month) so places are very limited. If interested, contact Lucy Healey: Lucy.Healey@bmwgroup.com who will send you an electronic application form. Applications then get sifted, suitable candidates get invited in for interview and places are offered accordingly.

FOR FURTHER CAREERS SUPPORT...

Mrs Tracey Cross is always available to answer career related emails from both parents and students at careers@alderbrooksixthform.org



Official Facebook Page – Alderbrook Sixth Form – please LIKE & Share
Twitter: @ABKSixthForm