

Alderbrook School

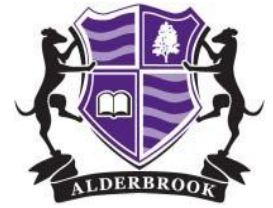
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4th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been fantastic to welcome our students back to Alderbrook over the last two days. Thank you for your support in ensuring they have arrived at the designated times and in full school uniform. It will take a few more days for the new routines to bed in, and if we need to tweak these we won't hesitate to do so. Please can I particularly emphasise our plea that, if at all possible, students do not arrive on site before 8.15am.

I will continue to send you a weekly update for at least the next few weeks while we settle back into school life and will keep you updated with any changes regarding Covid-19 locally or nationally that impact on school. Below is a range of updates:

School Buses

Yesterday I wrote to explain the updated guidance on wearing of face coverings on school transport - this letter is on our website. Bus passes will be distributed to students over the next few days. If students are yet to receive a pass they will not be refused entry to the bus while any teething problems are ironed out.

Remote learning and accessing work from home

Schools have been advised to provide a system for remote learning in the event of any local or national lockdown. We have two platforms for setting work: Class Charts and Microsoft Teams. Class Charts is used for setting homework, and over the next few weeks we will be teaching students how to access Microsoft Teams folders. Microsoft Teams will be our platform for setting work in any lockdown situation or where students are self-isolating, as this will be the platform for teachers to upload their lesson resources.

There is a clear set of instructions for students for both these platforms, including how to upload work back into Teams if they are working from home. Teachers will be going through these instructions in school over the next couple of weeks, and the information will be available on our website: Reopening, Distance Learning.

In the immediate future, we need to understand the resources students have at home to support them and therefore will be sending a very important questionnaire on Class Charts, which we need all students to complete. The movement from in school to remote learning is referred to as 'blended learning'. We will keep you informed as we shape these plans over the coming weeks.

In the instance of students isolating currently, or where a student might need to isolate in the near future, we are aiming to have our Teams folders up and running from Tuesday 8th September, and will endeavour to upload class work to folders from then. This means that a student can go into their class folder and see the lesson that is being delivered in school. They can also then go into Class Charts to see the homework that has been set for their class. They should, for now, store all their completed work ready to bring into school when they return after their isolation. Should they

have any questions they can email their teachers. Any student who is working from home can seek support for their work or any aspect of the technology by contacting us.

Covid-19 and Testing

The government has released the following guidance regarding when it is necessary for students to get tested, and asked that it be shared with all staff, parents and students. The guidance reads:

To ensure we identify those with coronavirus while avoiding a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms, we ask that you recommend to your pupils, students and staff who feel unwell, that they get tested if they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell, or
- they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse)

If a pupil, student or staff member develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms described above, only they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic. Unless a pupil, student or staff member has one of the three main coronavirus symptoms, they should only be tested if instructed otherwise by the local authority, health protection team or their GP. As schools and colleges across England return, pupils and students may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These pupils and students don't need to book a test but may need to stay off school or college and seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.

On the school website you will find further guidance on Covid-19 and what we will do if a member of the school community develops symptoms. It is available here: <https://buff.ly/2QSIONZ>

Parent Consultation Evening and Information Evenings

Given the restrictions in place, we will not be able to run our parent evenings on site, at least for this term. We are exploring all options to ensure we can still relay information and give parents the opportunity to get feedback from teachers. The first such evening is scheduled for Thursday 10th September for Year 7 parents - we will write to Year 7 parents early next week with details of our plans to replace this evening.

Have a lovely weekend

With best wishes



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher