

FAQs

- **Is there a simpler way of contacting the pastoral team directly? Are we able to email the form tutor/HoY etc directly? We are concerned about confidentiality in emailing the office email first.**

If you need to contact a member of staff directly, we would ask you to contact the school office. The office will ensure that your query or concern is sent to the appropriate member of staff, who will then contact you as soon as they can. If there is an urgent matter or an emergency, we would advise you to contact the school number and the receptionist will inform Pastoral as soon as possible.

If you are concerned about confidentiality, please email the office and request that the appropriate member of staff contacts you about a confidential matter. All staff at the school will deal with incidents and situations sensitively and in the best interest of the child.

- **Please can we have the video of the information evening?**

This will be placed on the website alongside the other resources on the Transition page.

- **Are the school dinners priced for the children to view? It would be most useful if they were on display to enable students to keep within their budget and make informed choices.**

School dinner menus are displayed at the various food service hatches around school, this includes the prices for each item. We encourage students to speak with our kitchen staff regarding the prices of items available and also the amount they have available on their account before handling and purchasing food.

- **As the weather gets colder, we don't want our child going into school in PE shorts, can the school recommend some tracksuit trousers to buy?**

As part of the school PE kit, Alderbrook tracksuit bottoms/leggings are available at Early Years to purchase. Only sportswear with the school logo on will be allowed for PE lessons and on school site. The PE Department will be monitoring the weather. Consequently, on some days, lessons may be theory based in classrooms, if it is too wet to do practical work outside. Indoor practical spaces will be timetabled between groups to give all students some access to these as well.

- **Can students borrow books from school library? How will the students know which books are appropriate?**

Our school has a library which has a large selection of books covering a range of topics and abilities to encourage our students' love of reading. Using accelerated reader, students are tested and will receive their reading age within the coming weeks. Reading ages will directly correlate to books in our library to ensure your child is appropriately challenged by their reading. We are looking into how we can use the library in line with COVID safety measures.

- **Our child has received his ClassCharts password. Will we get a parent password as well?**

Parents should have recently received a password for ClassCharts so that they can monitor their child's attitude in lessons and also see homework set. If you have not, please contact the office email who will be able to provide you with it.

- **We have accessed Moodle but it doesn't show much. Will the teaching material be populated at some stage?**

Moodle is not a platform we will be using very much for Year 7s. Staff will be uploading lessons to Teams and setting homework on ClassCharts. If your child needs additional support, please encourage them to speak to their class teacher who will advise them on additional resources to support their learning.

- **Would it be possible for me to view the lesson plans for the PSHCE curriculum?**

In the next two weeks the Year 7 Curriculum Booklet will be on our school website, detailing the curriculum content for Year 7s. This will contain an outline of the content for the PSHCE programme.

- **During the summer term we paid for keyboard lessons for our child. We have received no information regarding this or confirming she will have them (although the cheque was paid in). Please could you let us know arrangements as soon as possible?**

Instrumental Music lessons will commence week beginning 5th October. Timetables will be issued via email a week before these are due to start. As we have two guitar teachers, some guitar lessons will start on 25th Sept. Those parents and students will receive an email confirming this soon.

- **Could we have some information on the credits/debits system in the school? Are these collected towards something?**

Credits are rewarded to students for a number of reasons such as, working hard in lesson, completing homework and demonstrating to schools values: ambition, bravery and kindness. Students can cash in their credits for rewards on ClassCharts such as early lunch pass or tea and biscuits with the head teacher etc. Students who also reach a certain amount of credits, are rewarded certificates and incentives such as hot chocolate with the head of year and pastoral manager.

Debits are given to students for not following the school rules. When a student reaches a certain amount of behaviour points, meetings are had with the relevant staff to ensure that students are supported to make the right choice. Form tutors regularly check debits and credits to ensure that students are mentored effectively to support a positive and productive time at Alderbrook School where they understand the expectations to succeed.

- **Can we have any information on the cycle parking in school?**

An email has been sent to parents this week about students cycling and the expectations of students to keep them and others safe while traveling to and from. Parents must sign the form sent out to confirm they are happy with their child cycling and that they have spoken to their child about the expectations. We have two areas for students to store their bikes and have just applied for more bicycle parking to accommodate the increase of students wishing to use it.

- **Are SLT a visible presence and are classroom teachers at their doors to meet and greet and support the pupil traffic?**

Members of SLT are seen around the school, in the mornings on the gates welcoming the students in, at break time and lunch time and also at end of the school day at the gates saying goodbye to students. During lesson change overs, SLT, pastoral managers and teaching staff are around the school site monitoring and ensuring that students are following the one way system and travelling between buildings sensibly. Teachers are at their doors to meet and greet students, to get students ready to learn.

- **When will I hear from my child's form tutor?**

Form tutors are the first port of call if your child does have an issue at school as they see your child every day. Form tutors will be contacting parents of students in year 7 shortly to see how they have settled in to life at Alderbrook School. If you need to speak to the form tutor, you can either write in the planner or email the office asking them to contact you. Reports will also be coming out soon with a message from the tutor to discuss how your child has transitioned to Alderbrook.