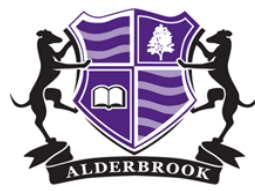


Blossomfield Road
Solihull
West Midlands
B91 1SN
Tel: 0121 704 2146



**Alderbrook
School**
AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS

Email: office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk
Web: www.alderbrookschool.co.uk

ALDERBROOK END OF TERM CELEBRATION NEWSLETTER

Edition 4 – December 2020

Message from Tom Beveridge, Headteacher

As we draw to the end of what has been a term like no other, it is lovely to be able to share some positive stories about the achievements of our students.

This newsletter is thinner on the ground than it would usually be at this time of year, and it is very sad that we have not been able to offer the wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities which would normally be chronicled in a Christmas newsletter. This was brought home to me when I watched an A Level drama performance last week, and was reminded of how important performance is for so many. The students were fantastic, and I sincerely hope we will be able to offer wider opportunities similar to this in the near future, as it helps our students to thrive.

Having said this, our students have still achieved so much this term. I said in the Summer newsletter that we needed to celebrate the resilience and commitment of all students due to their commitment to remote learning, but I must say it once again as this term has tested student resolve even further. We know that asking students to follow new expectations on the school site, and asking them to isolate at short notice and revert to remote learning, has put a lot of strain on individuals, but they have conducted themselves admirably.

I hope all students are able to have a rest and break over Christmas, and even though some students have exams in early January, it is important they have some time off.

This term we say goodbye to three members of staff who are going on to new challenges – Jo Cummins, Louise Sullivan and Becky Friend. I would like to thank them for all they have done at Alderbrook and wish them all the very best for the future.

I wish you all a safe, happy and restful Christmas break.

Sixth Form Medics Society Autumn Term 2020



The Sixth Form runs a lively and varied programme of enrichment options, and this term the Medics Society, 26 students keen to work in healthcare roles such as GP, pharmacist, paramedic, dentist and physiotherapist, have been fortunate to be visited “virtually” by a wide range of online speakers, many of whom are parent contacts.

Dr Clift, a top cardiologist from the Birmingham Centre for Rare Diseases, advised the students about getting into medicine and gave us a frank insight into his work and career.

Senior Audiologist Mrs Joanne Davis explained about audiology and answered questions about what can impair hearing (NB the repeated use of headphones attached to a phone can be very damaging!).

Six doctors from Warwick Hospital also gave a talk on what it is like to be a student doctor and have run a series of mock interviews for our prospective medics via MS Teams, to prepare them for the forthcoming processes.

We have completed First Aid training based on the St John Ambulance and First Aid for Free online resources, undertook the Zero Suicide Alliance training to help someone in a crisis, follow the social media of our favourite “Medicelebs” and have studied current news events around Covid to understand the trials, vaccine, political controversies, socio-economic issues and logistics of this unfolding story.



**How to help
someone
who's fainted**



We have befriended the elderly members of the Wednesday Club and now maintain penpal contact with them to offer support and company.

Finally, after hearing the story from one of our own school staff whose son was treated at Heartlands Hospital, the group decided to make a video to promote the hospital's fundraising effort and the Sixth Form Christmas Jumper day collection will be donated to this worthy cause.

If you work in Healthcare and can offer a talk or some work experience to a prospective student in our Sixth Form, Ms Hess would be delighted to hear from you!

S201bhess@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk

Year 11 Mock Exams – Monday Jan 4th to Friday Jan 15th 2021

The full timetable and some revision resources are available on the Year 11 and Year 13 page on the school's website. There is a direct link from the school's home page.

News from our Art Department

It is nice to celebrate and have the opportunity to work collaboratively within Art. Collaboratively yet, sadly, independently due to the nature of what is happening around us at present.

We started the term with the mindful cubes now proudly displayed in the Malley foyer. Many students completed their mindful cubes responding to the theme of lockdown. Most were created in the first two weeks of the term and look superb now that they have been strung together and hung.

Year 9 GCSE option related to Diwali and students generated small collaged intricate patterns out of lentils and dried beans. These are on display in the foyer.

We have another collaborative KS5 art and year 7 art task making up this year's Xmas display, retaining zentangle and mindful art techniques and lastly we REMEMBERED on Remembrance Day with year 7 creating individual bunting pieces and KS5's assemblage of petal shape paper wreaths.

A busy term for the department.

Thank you for all those who contributed but especially Mrs Myatt for organising the Christmas display and Mrs Foden who is still mentally threading cubes some 10 weeks on.

We thought you would enjoy these images given that limited opportunities to showcase our students' contributions. (please scroll down)

Photography Competition 2021

This competition is open to all students and has a deadline for February half term.

If you have access to a camera or better still your mobile phone and can relate to the theme of **'Wild Nature'** then this is your chance to win £100 or be a highly commended £25 gift receiver.

You need 3 prints. They need to be A4 size of your favourite 3 images and a quick statement of why you took them and how they fit the theme.

Rotary Club organise this competition and Touchwood display and sponsor the competition. Year 7,8,9 in one age group and KS4 and KS5 in another.

Good luck and see Mrs Roundell in January for an entry form.

News from our Dance Department

Virtual Dance Competition

Our year 10 group and Leah Jones from year 11 entered the South Solihull virtual dance competition and both made it through to the County finals, competing against schools in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. The year 10 group picked up 1st place and Leah Jones finished second in the year 11 solo competition.

Year 10 - 1st place in the county finals - virtual street dance competition.

- Jia Dhaliwall
- Millie Macauley
- Sophia Bucknall
- Chloe Barney
- Poppy Brown
- Stella Robinson
- Maisie Mills



Year 11 – 2nd place in the county finals – virtual street dance competition.

- Leah Jones

Many congratulations to all of the dancers and their teachers.



News from our Music Department

12 Days of Christmas

Christmas isn't complete at Alderbrook School without our annual musical or Christmas concert. In the absence of this, the Music Department have decided to create a 12 Days of Christmas with performances over the last 12 days of school.

These have featured students from all year groups with a range of different festive tunes. All the videos have been released on the Music Departments twitter page. A huge thank you to those students that have contributed by performing a Christmas song.

<https://mobile.twitter.com/ABKMusic2>

Please follow the twitter page for future videos and news from the department.

Year 7 Students - Christmas Performance

This term Year 7 students have been introduced to the Ukulele. This has proved to be a huge success; not only have students adapted well to Covid restrictions in a practical environment but they have excelled in developing their team work skills, ensemble work and performing as a class.

What we found most heart-warming was the encouragement the students gave to each other when learning a succession of chords and being able to perform in time as a whole class. I am sure you will agree ABK Year 7 superstars have done us proud with their fantastic performance of 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town'

ACM Workshops

We were extremely lucky to have been given the opportunity to have two online workshops from ACM Birmingham. The year 11 music group received a tremendous Music Industry workshop from musician Ace from the band Skunk Anansie. He discussed his career with his band in particular when they toured, recorded and travelled the world. This talk was beneficial to the group as they have their Music Industry exam in January.

The year 9 BTEC group had a song writing workshop with Vix Perks from ACM who discussed her successful song writing techniques. The group will now be able to take her advice to complete their songs that they have been writing.

Non-uniform for Remembrance Day

Thank you to all students and staff who donated to the Poppy Appeal.

As a school, we raised £826.



