

Alderbrook School

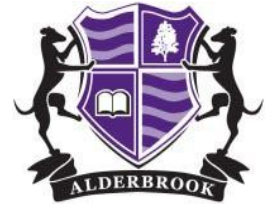
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BET/MAC

16 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I want to provide information for parents and carers ahead of the Christmas holiday. Please can I particularly draw everyone's attention to the section on positive cases after Friday 18 December.

End of Term Arrangements

Term will end for all students on Friday at 2pm. The school buses will be ready to collect the students at this time. The last day of term is a non-school uniform day. We are encouraging the whole school community to wear a Christmas Jumper and we ask students to bring a voluntary donation of £1 to raise money for the charity Young Minds.

Positive Cases after Friday 18 December

The Government has assumed that schools will continue to operate Track and Trace beyond the end of term, up to and including Christmas Eve. I hope like me, you will accept that this puts additional strain on our staff so I ask you to please read the information below carefully:

1. Where a student tests positive for COVID-19 having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
2. For the first 6 days after Friday (up to and including Christmas Eve), if a student tests positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, or if asymptomatic having been tested within 48 hours of being in school, please email covidpositive@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk. Please provide the student's name and year group, as well as the best phone number to contact you on, and a member of the leadership team will be in touch to ascertain if we need to trace contacts at school. We would really appreciate if school can be notified immediately if you are informed of a positive test result.
3. Please do not email the above email address after Thursday 24 December.

School will reopen on Monday 4 January.



Alderbrook School
& Sixth Form

AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS

Solihull Council Winter Support Scheme

In response to the challenges the pandemic is causing for many families, Solihull Council is extending its support to families over the Christmas and New Year period.

This is intended to provide additional help and support to households with food, utility bills and other essentials up to the end of March 2021.

Call Solihull Connect on 0121 704 8100, for information and advice on how to access local community support, food or financial assistance. Solihull Connect can also refer and connect families to local food networks, as well as to the Council's Discretionary Crisis Fund (DCF). The DCF can provide financial and fuel assistance to any household experiencing severe financial hardship. This includes access to food, fuel top-ups and, if needed, essential white goods.

Year 11

Last week Kate Read wrote to all Year 11 Parents and Carers with details of contingency plans for mock exams in January should any student be forced to isolate during this period. The letter and plan can be found here: <https://www.alderbrookschool.co.uk/coronavirus-updates/year-11-and-13-information/>.

January and beyond

There remains much uncertainty about the New Year and the continued impact of the virus on education. This week you will have seen that plans are being put forward to introduce mass testing in schools, however we are yet to have the detail of how this will work in practice. Regardless of the pressures that come onto the school, we will continue to focus on delivering a quality education for all of our students. We are determined that students taking public exams in the summer, and students across the school, will have the best possible chance of success.

Finally

I am truly sorry that we have not been able to offer the students the normal traditions this year. The week before Christmas in schools is a particularly happy time and I'm sorry that not all students are in school to see their friends. We hope that 2021 is far more positive for the whole community.

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

With best wishes



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher