

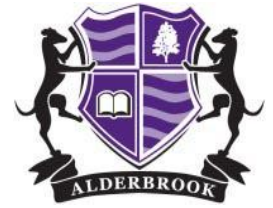
Alderbrook School

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31 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the announcement by the government yesterday about the delayed opening of schools, please see below our plans for the start to term. Please read each section carefully. We will not be able to respond to any enquiries until Monday 4 January.

Monday 4 January

Monday will be an INSET day for staff. We will not be setting any work remotely or having any students in school on Monday 4 January. We hope you understand that due to the government announcement at very short notice, we will need the time to plan for the changes and teachers will need time to prepare remote learning.

Remote Learning

Remote learning will start for all year groups on Tuesday 5 January. The government outlined yesterday that schools can provide remote learning for all year groups from the week beginning Monday 4 January if resources permit, and we believe it is important to deliver remote learning to all year groups.

All work will be set on Microsoft Teams. From Tuesday 5 January, students should follow their normal timetable (it will be week 2 of the 2-week timetable) and work will be available on Teams at the normal time of each lesson. Where possible, teachers will deliver these lessons live so students should check if there is a live lesson at the time of each lesson. This may not always be pragmatic for some practical lessons, and a limited number of staff may need some flexibility to assist with the setting up of COVID testing in school, but work will be provided at the lesson time regardless. If staff are absent or unable to set any work, parents and students will be notified. During form time tutors will, on occasion, contact their tutees but there will not be formal sessions, although assemblies will be made available for students to watch. There may be less homework on Class Charts as staff revert to Teams for the duration of the school closure. Microsoft Teams remains the best platform for teaching in these circumstances.

Vulnerable students and children of critical workers

Vulnerable students and children of critical workers can attend school from Tuesday 5 January if necessary. They will have access to a computer suite where they will be able to complete the work and access lessons set by their teachers. Students in Years 7 and 8 with access to the ARC will have provision in the ARC. If you are a critical worker, we ask that your child only attends if absolutely necessary. We will only have limited capacity due to COVID restrictions. Although we have a limited supply, it will be beneficial for students to bring their own headphones so that they

can access the sound in online lessons. The canteen will be open at lunchtime with a limited offer of hot and cold meals.

We have updated the Microsoft Form for those needing to access this provision to include the second week of term (for Years 7-10 and 12). If you have already completed the form for the first week, we will assume you require provision for the second week so you do not need to complete the form again. The form can be found [here](#).

Year 11 Mock Exams

Providing the guidance does not change again, Year 11 mock exams will be delayed by one week and will start on Monday 11 January. The week of exams originally scheduled to start on 4 January will move to the week beginning 18 January, with the week of exams scheduled from 11 January remaining in that week. This is due to the considerable rooming and invigilator arrangements already in place for the week beginning 11 January. The revised timetable is included at the end of this letter – please note that where students are required to sit more than one exam in any subject, these papers will be scheduled in the order that they were originally planned. For example, Geography Paper 1 will now be on Wednesday 13 January, with Paper 2 on Friday 22 January. Please also note that in the subjects where the real exam now takes place before the rearranged mock (in Music, Engineering and Health & Social Care) students will no longer be required to sit the mock exam and it has been removed from the mock timetable.

Public exams

We are aware that some Year 11 and Year 10 students have public exams in January. OCR and Pearson, the exam boards, have confirmed that these will go ahead as planned. The first scheduled exam is on Thursday 7 January. We will contact all students involved early next week with arrangements for attending school to complete these exams. These exams are highlighted in red in the mock timetable below.

Support with technology

If students are unable to access the work set remotely please contact itsupport@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk on 4 January and the IT department will help you with this. We have a limited supply of laptops and internet dongles available for students who do not have access to this technology at home. We will prioritise access for disadvantaged students but please email IT support if you do not have access and we will make arrangements for you to collect these on Monday.

Arrangements for Free School Meals during remote learning

Vouchers will be provided for students with access to Free School Meals. We will contact all families involved early next week.

Return to school for students and Testing for COVID

As the government announced yesterday, schools are being asked to welcome Year 11 and 13 students back into school from 11 January, and students in all other year groups from 18 January. We are intending to welcome Years 11 and 13 back to school on Monday 11 January, and all other year groups on Monday 18 January, and will confirm this during the first week of term. We will also

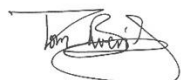
work to set up COVID testing in school from 4 January. Please bear with us as we put this in place, we will give you more information about all of this as soon as possible.

Finally

We appreciate the tremendous impact the move to remote learning has on students and their families. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us from Monday 4 January and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year,

With best wishes



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher

ALDERBROOK SCHOOL
Year 11 Mock Exams – January 2021
TIMETABLE

MORNING		Day/date	AFTERNOON
Session 1 – 08:45 start	Session 2 – 11:20 start		Session 3 – 13:40 start
Music – Real exam 60 Min		Thursday 7 th January	
Sport Studies Y10/11 Real Exam 60 Min GCSE PE 90 Min	Comp Sc P1/Dance 90 Min	Monday 11 th January 2021	H&SC – Real exam 60 Min
Engineering Y10/11 Real exam 60 Min Drama 105 Min	Science Biology 105 Min	Tuesday 12 th January 2021	French/Spanish Reading 60 Min
English P1 105 Min	Geography P1 90 Min	Wednesday 13 th January 2021	Info Tech – Real Exam 105 Min
Science Chemistry 105 Min	Computer Sc P2 90 Min	Thursday 14 th January 2021	History P1 60 Min

DT 120 Min	Maths Non Calculator 90 Min	Friday 15 th January 2021	
English P2 105 Min	Spanish/French Writing 75 Min	Monday 18 th January 2021	
Food 105 Min	Maths Calculator 90 Min	Tuesday 19 th January 2021	
Science Physics 105 Min	Media 90 Min	Wednesday 20 th January 2021	
	Maths Calculator 90 Min	Thursday 21 st January 2021	History P2 60 Min
Business 105 Min	Geography P2 90 Min	Friday 22 nd January 2021	History P3 60 Min