

# Alderbrook School

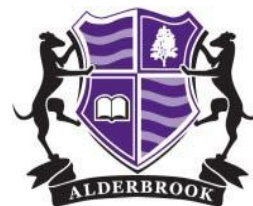
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29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This week we heard the news that schools will not start to reopen to all students until at least 8 March. This, I'm sure, was very difficult to hear for many students and families; there is no replacement for being in school and we know students are missing their friends. We are here to assist all of our students and families, and while we will continue to review our approach to remote learning and support, we hope some of the initiatives outlined below will enable a focus on wellbeing and help students to manage their learning. I will be writing to students and parents of exam year groups in the next few weeks with updated information on the weeks ahead.

## Inside Out Day, Wednesday 3 February

As outlined in my letter on 22 January, next Wednesday we want students to have a day off lessons and to focus on their own wellbeing. Students in Years 7-11 will not have any live lessons on Wednesday. We will publish some activities and initiatives on our website and social media platforms early next week and will notify you when these are available. One of the key drivers for this day is for students to have some time away from screens. This may be an opportunity for students to catch up on work that they may not have completed, and there are a wealth of learning materials that can be printed off from our website, and for Year 11 a chance to do some valuable revision and respond to any feedback from their teachers.

Students can also join a webinar on Inside Out Day which focuses on wellbeing. At 10am, Years 7, 8 and 9 can join a session (via their Teams calendar) with MindFit, who will lead a workout online. At 2pm, there is an opportunity for Year 10-13 to access a webinar (via Teams) with Kooth, who will discuss strategies for dealing with anxiety and exam stress. Please keep an eye on our social media channels for further updates.

## Parent Questionnaire Feedback

The initiative above was designed partly in response to the valuable information we received from the parent questionnaire – thank you to everyone who responded. Please follow the link [here](#) for more detailed feedback in response to the questionnaire.

## Ask for ANI

The police have asked us to share information about the Ask for ANI initiative. This is a code word scheme developed by the Home Office to provide a discreet way for victims of domestic abuse to signal that they need emergency help from the safety of their local pharmacy. Further information is attached.

## February Half term

The government has this week confirmed that schools will not be required to remain open for vulnerable and critical worker students at half term. The school will be closed to all students during the week beginning 15 February.

## **Our communication with you about student engagement**

Schools have been considering how best to communicate with parents about engagement in lessons. We have chosen to give students a 'credit' on ClassCharts. Giving a credit means they have attended a live lesson, or engaged actively with the materials. Rather than giving 'debits' for lack of submitted work or engagement with a lesson, we have chosen to communicate first with the child on Teams, and then if concerns continue, with parents/carers via email or phone calls. We are very conscious of the pressure on all of us at the moment and do not want this to become difficult for families. At the same time we do need to ensure you are aware when we cannot see students engaging in learning, as I am sure you will agree. Therefore please see any contact of this type as an opportunity to inform us of any issues your child may be having to access or complete their work. If you do receive multiple emails or calls about your child's work, we do want to help, so please get in touch with the pastoral manager for your child's year group, who will be able to offer support:

Year 7 – Mr M Stockman

Year 8 – Ms J Allen

Year 9 – Mrs S Wedgbury

Year 10 – Mr G Walker

Year 11 – Mr J Middleton

Year 12 – Mrs R Hess

Year 13 – Mrs R Hess

## **Student Wellbeing**

A reminder to all our parents/carers that there are a range of different ways we can support students and families through this difficult time. We have collated these on our school website, with some advice for students, available [here](#). We have also published a new document with advice about e-safety, available [here](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you do need more support,

Best wishes



**Tom Beveridge**  
**Headteacher**