

Alderbrook School

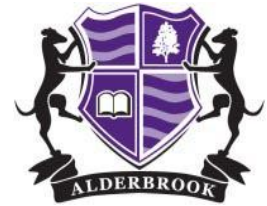
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Dear Parents and Carers

I apologise for the length of this letter, but we have a number of updates for you ahead of the half term break. We await further government announcements on the wider reopening of schools and we remain ever hopeful that this will happen as soon as possible after 8 March. If an announcement does come during the half term break, we will communicate to you our response to this during the week beginning 22 February.

I have been truly humbled by the efforts of students and staff this term in adapting so quickly to remote education and the demands of lockdown. Students deserve a well-earned break next week and certainly, if possible, lots of screen-free time! Thank you for your continued support.

Subject Assessments after half term

Last week and earlier this week we wrote to parents of Year 11 and 13 to outline assessments that will be happening after half term. For Year 11, these will take place during the first week back, 22 February, and for Year 13, during the week of 1 March.

For students in Years 7-10 and Year 12, we will be assessing students over the next half term in line with our usual class assessments. On our school calendar, there is currently an internal exam window in the two weeks before Easter for Years 8 and 9, and one for Year 7 beginning 10 May; due to the long period students have had out of school, these exam windows will be removed. For Years 10 and 12, the mock exam windows that are scheduled after Easter will remain on the calendar for now, but we will review these well in advance if we do not feel these support students in making strong progress.

Students should look on Class Charts this week where they will find important advice to support them ahead of any class assessments during the next half term. This information will also be shared with students just before the assessments start, informing them how they will be run. As all assessments will be set on Assignments (a part of Microsoft Teams), the information on Class Charts will also remind them how to upload their work to this platform. Students should let their teachers know if they do not understand any of this.

If your child is entitled to Access Arrangements and in Years 11, 12 and 13 we will notify you separately. Students with Access Arrangements are always encouraged to use them. Year 7 and 8 students in the ARC will be assessed along broadly the same subjects and topics with some variations. Any Year 7 and 8 ARC students attending mainstream lessons will be assessed in the same way as their peers and at the same time. Information about how these can be applied during remote assessments can be found on our website [here](#).

It will be important that your child can complete the assessments in a quiet room, working at a table. The assessments will be around 40 minutes in length because students will need time to submit their work carefully. As far as we are aware, all our students now have access to the technology they need to complete these assessments. If this is not the case, please get back in touch with us.

Whilst we expect most students to complete these assessments fairly, we ask for your support in reminding your child that they must not refer to any documents, websites or friends during an assessment. They should treat it as if they were in school. Teachers can usually tell straight away when a child's work is not their own – by comparing papers, analysing text for plagiarism or by noting an unusual pattern in a child's outcomes over time. We will endeavour to inform you if we suspect such activity, though will also talk to students about this when they return to school. In some cases, this may result in tests becoming invalid. You can view when assessments for students in Years 7-10 scheduled [here](#). If, as we hope, students return to school before some of the scheduled assessments, these assessments will take place in school as normal.

COVID-19 Notification over half term

For parents of students who have been attending critical worker and vulnerable student provision in school, 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 Thursday 18 February), 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.

Tuesday Tutor time

After half term, we are going to be reintroducing a formal tutor time each Tuesday. Students will be invited to a live Teams lesson by their form tutor, and it will be an opportunity for tutors to check in with students, and also to share resources such as assemblies and our PSD lessons. Attendance to these sessions will be logged and we hope that students will find the sessions beneficial.

Student Greyhound

This year we have been running a weekly newsletter for staff called the 'Greyhound'. We will now be introducing a student version that we will post on Class Charts and email to students each week. I have attached our first edition of this, which has also been posted to students on Class Charts and via their email accounts.

Commonwealth Games

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games (28 July to 8 August 2022) is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase the West Midlands on the global stage. With only 18 months to go, Solihull Council is researching what activities and events might be delivered in association with the Commonwealth Games and they have asked us to share the following surveys to contribute to their research.

There are two versions, one for children and young people and one for adults. The surveys will close at 12 noon on 17 February, so please participate and share before then.

- [2022 Commonwealth Games - children and young people survey link](#)
- [2022 Commonwealth Games - resident and stakeholder survey \[link\]](#)

Student Wellbeing

A reminder that there are lots of wellbeing resources available on our website [here](#).

Have a lovely half term break.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Beveridge', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Tom Beveridge
Headteacher