

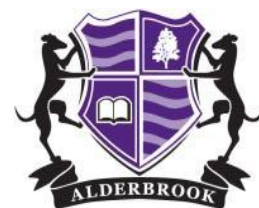
Alderbrook School

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21 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of the term, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. If someone had told me a year ago that the next academic year would be even more challenging than the last I would have struggled to believe it but it certainly has been just that. Our students have, despite the ongoing disruption, continued to work very hard and live out our core values. It has been uplifting to see students once again experience some of what Alderbrook can offer over the last term, with Duke of Edinburgh trips, sport fixtures and events such as the annual Year 7 Languages breakfasts able to go ahead. Of course we are ever hopeful that from September we will be able to put in place a much broader extra-curricular offer for all students. Many congratulations to our newly appointed student leadership teams in Year 10 and 12 – we look forward to working with them closely in shaping the future direction of the school from September.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of our year 11s and 13s leaving us this summer a well earned break and thank them for their contribution to Alderbrook during their time with us. We look forward to celebrating with many of you on results day in August.

The summer break

We hope that everyone stays safe over the summer break. If your child does test positive for Covid-19 there is no need to report it to the school – all positive LFD tests should be confirmed by a PCR test and, if positive, NHS Track and Trace will be in touch. Mr Coggan outlined details of testing over the summer and on the return to school in the letter sent out yesterday, it is available [here](#).

The Department for Education has launched an information site for parents, to support children of all age ranges and abilities catch up on lost learning from the pandemic. The site features advice and support for parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as programmes, resources and activities for children and young people this summer. It is available [here](#).

Start of the new school year

In August we will write to all parents with final details of the start of term for all students. In Mr Coggan's letter, he has outlined the plans for the staggered start to the term to enable all students to access onsite Lateral Flow testing. Please look at this carefully so you are aware of when your child will be tested and when they will return. I would also ask that you complete the new consent for the testing, again outlined in Mr Coggan's letter, as soon as possible.

Staffing updates

As the school year draws to a close I would like to pay tribute to all staff at Alderbrook; they have worked tirelessly to support our students. I particularly want to thank all staff who are going on to opportunities elsewhere this summer. Their dedication and hard work while at Alderbrook has impacted positively on the lives of many of our young people, and I am sure you will share with me in saying thank you. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our governors who give up their own time voluntarily to support staff and challenge the school to continue to improve.

I must make a special mention of three staff who have shown incredible commitment to Alderbrook for many years and who are sadly moving on this summer:

Kym Miller is a long standing member of our Alderbrook community and many families will have known Kym for a number of years as siblings have moved through the school. Kym has been an integral part of our Design and Technology team for an incredible 18 years, leading our Food department and cultivating a lifelong love of cooking and food in countless students. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Kym a well-deserved and happy retirement, although she will of course be much missed in school.

Anna Allen is also a very familiar face to many families, having started her career at Alderbrook some 14 years ago, working in Drama before being appointed as Assistant Headteacher and Director of Sixth Form. Anna has had a long-lasting impact on our school and Sixth Form, but is now leaving the school to take up a Deputy Headteacher position at a regional trust and we want to thank her for her tireless work to develop and lead the Sixth Form to become a fantastic provision for our young people.

Kate Read, after an unbelievable 26 years, leaves Alderbrook this summer to enjoy her retirement with her husband. Kate, working most recently as Deputy Headteacher, has fulfilled a whole host of roles in her time at Alderbrook. Kate is part of the fabric of Alderbrook and has seen so many changes both nationally and locally through her school career with us, but has always been the first to respond and lead, whilst always having the children that come here at the very forefront of all that she does. We have been very lucky to have Kate as part of our team and wish her a very long and happy retirement ahead!

In September we will be joined by a number of new staff and we look forward to welcoming them onto our team. Gemma Hobbs, who is currently a Senior Assistant Head at St Peters and used to work at Alderbrook as Head of English, will be returning as Deputy Headteacher. In the new school year, we will set up some long overdue opportunities for parents to meet me, Gemma and the rest of the Senior Leadership Team.

The Future is bright

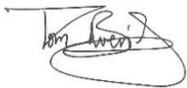
We are very sad that many students have had to end the school year at home. I, like all staff, live in hope that some form of normality can return for our young people over the summer and from

September. The new school year will certainly bring change to Alderbrook; there is going to be significant site work over the summer and during the next academic year. Over the summer break improvements are being made to our catering facilities; a new servery is being installed on Cartwright playground, and improvements are being made to the Malley Servery and main canteen. We also have resurfacing work taking place to one of our main playgrounds, and an exciting installation of a new school library. Next year all the windows on Cartwright building are being replaced, and work will start in September to build a new car park and 7-classroom block at the centre of the school site. I will need to communicate some tweaks to parking and bus pick up/drop off arrangements at the start of the new school year, so please look out for these.

We know Covid-19 is going to be with us for some time, but we are determined to look forward and focus on how our school community can continue to improve. Over the last few weeks, we have been asking students the question, *what do you want our school to represent as we come out of the pandemic?* I will finish with the words of a Year 9 student who responded that they want Alderbrook to represent 'honesty, bravery, kindness, art, skill, talent, grace, excellence, beauty, friendship, bonds, resilience, uniqueness, morals, determination, growth, power, leadership, hard work, independence.'

I couldn't agree more! Have a lovely summer,

Best wishes



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher