

Alderbrook School

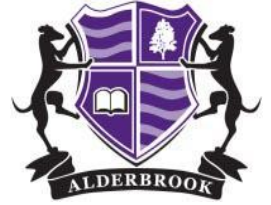
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Dear Parents and Carers

11 February 2022

It has been a very fast moving but productive half term at Alderbrook and I continue to be extremely impressed with the attitude of our students. An increasing number of students are re-engaging with all areas of school life, with students busily rehearsing for drama and dance productions, taking part in competitive sport, and getting involved in a whole range of enrichment activities. Students preparing for external exams in the summer are entering a crucial part of the school year; today we gave Year 11 their mock results and Year 13 will be completing formal assessments after the half term break. All students will have formal assessments in the second half of the academic year and we will share information on these assessments with the parents of each year group.

Ahead of the half term break next Friday, below are a number of key updates.

Year 13 formal assessments

A reminder that for our year 13s they will return to formal assessments from Monday 28 February for two weeks. Please support your child in their revision for this important milestone in their Sixth Form journey towards final exams in the summer.

Pre-release material for GCSEs and A Levels

On Monday, pre-release material came out from all exam boards ahead of the external exams this summer. This information has been released in order to support students in their preparation for their exams, in light of the disruption caused by Covid-19. Teachers will be ensuring that students receive all the information they need so they can plan their revision accordingly. We will be sharing further information with Year 11 and 13 parents in the coming days.

Blossomfield Road – re-surfacing works and introduction of a cycle way

We have been informed by SMBC planning department that works will commence on a new 2-way cycle way on Blossomfield Road which will involve extensive re-surfacing and amendments to the road markings. These are programmed to start on the 22nd February, lasting approximately 4 weeks and will mean there is no longer a limited parking lane directly outside school. This is an exciting opportunity to reduce congestion, parking and our carbon footprint, but will inevitably initially cause some disruption. Can I please ask that wherever possible, your child should be encouraged to come to school by foot, bicycle or public transport. Parents and carers are not allowed onto site to drop off or pick up unless there is a pre-agreed arrangement in place or you have an appointment with a member of staff, and students should not be dropped off at the Blossomfield Road entrance. Can I please also ask for your support in not seeking alternative parking in local residential areas such as blocks of flats where this is not public parking areas. Please be considerate to our neighbours to school at all times – this is much appreciated.

Household support – February half term holiday food vouchers

Support for families in receipt of benefits related free school meals will continue over the February half term holiday period, with a payment of £15 per child, in the form of supermarket vouchers.

This payment will come directly from Solihull Council; for further details, please visit <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Schools-and-learning/Free-school-meals>. If you have already registered and are entitled to free school meals in Solihull, you will automatically receive your voucher and therefore do not need to contact the council. Vouchers will be issued by 18 February 2022.

Fire alarms

I have unfortunately had to send a communication to be read out to all students to remind them that setting off a fire alarm maliciously is a criminal offence. Since the start of the school year, the fire alarm has been set off a number of times, some of which have been accidental, but a few of which have been malicious. We apply disciplinary action against any student who carries out this selfish behaviour, or to any student who is with someone who sets an alarm off and does not come forward. A fine may also be applied to the parents of the student as there is a cost in repairing and replacing the fire call points. If any costs are incurred by the Fire Brigade to respond to a malicious call out, these will be passed onto the parents of the student involved.

Lockdown Drill

Please be advised we will be having a lockdown drill in school before the half term break. A requirement for a school lockdown is thankfully extremely rare but we aim to carry out one drill a year so students understand how they will be asked to act. A lockdown is only ever required if there is an immediate danger on the school site, and students will normally be asked to remain in their classroom, and teachers will temporarily lock doors and close window blinds. If students come home next week and explain that they were asked to carry out a lockdown drill, please be assured that this is not a real emergency.

Parental visits to school

Please can we ask all parents and carers that you should only be coming onto site if you have a car entry pass or have made an appointment with a member of staff. If students have forgotten PE kit or homework, please do not bring it into school during the day; we continue to work to limit the risk of Covid-19 and to keep congestion on our school site at a minimum.

Covid Precautions

We continue to ask that students carry out LFT tests twice weekly. If your child is showing symptoms of Covid-19 or has a positive LFT test or is awaiting the results of a PCR test, please continue to inform us via covidpositive@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk. If your child is absent from school for any other illness please email absence@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk for each day your child is ill.

Best wishes,



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher