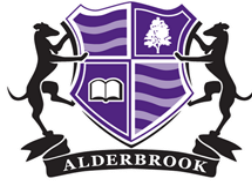


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Alderbrook School

AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS

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ALDERBROOK NEWSLETTER

Edition 7 – April 2022

Dear parents and carers,

The weeks are flying by for us all as we come to the end of another half term. Once again, the students have been amazing in coping with the continued strains in the wake of the pandemic. We have all had such a strange and disrupted two years, but the tenacity and resilience of young people is not to be underestimated and whilst some of our student body have understandably found the past months difficult and it has caused them some anxiety, we are here to support, nurture and help everyone to move forward.

We have had formal assessments for a number of year groups and whilst the external written exams for our year 11s and 13s start next half term, some of those students have already been involved in their practical Dance, Drama and Language exams and we wish them well. The Easter break will be an important period of revision for our year 11s and 13s, and they will need to structure their revision across the two weeks, while having some downtime to relax. This week all year 11s had a 1-hour or 2-hour workshop on revision techniques and strategies, and so please don't hesitate to ask them about the revision method of Read, Transform, Recall!

It has been a real pleasure to see our trips and out of school events begin to happen again, with our choir going to Birmingham Symphony Hall, our year 11 geographers enjoying a very informative trip to Nettlecombe and only this week, students travelling to Northampton to perform Chat Back, a play that staff and some parents/carers have already had the pleasure of seeing. Also this week some of our year 12 students went to visit Cambridge University with another trip to Oxford planned next term, and we hope to see positive outcomes for future applications to both these and other Russell Group universities, as well as applications to other higher education and employment routes. Next term is even busier with trips for our biologists to Twycross and Chester Zoos, the Black Country Museum for

our year 7 historians and in-house productions of Macbeth, a Flamenco workshop and DofE gold expeditions.

I remain incredibly proud of all of our students and thank parents and carers for your continued support. Our students demonstrate every day that they are Ambitious, Brave and Kind. We hope you enjoy the updates celebrating the achievements of our students in this newsletter.

Have a restful break over the Easter period,

Tom Beveridge

ABK Uniform



Do you have any spare ABK uniform?

We would like to be able to pass second-hand uniform on to our new year 7 students.

Their families will be asked to make a small donation to the Marjorie Willis Foundation.

ABK Student News

Commonwealth Poetry

This message was sent to all primary and secondary schools in Solihull from The Mayor's Office and our Alderbrook students rose to the challenge magnificently!

FLYING THE FLAG FOR THE COMMONWEALTH Message from The Mayor's Office

Local authorities throughout the United Kingdom will once again fly the Commonwealth Flag for 24 hours from 10.00am on Monday 14 March 2022. The ceremony continues to represent an ideal time to celebrate the true value of the Commonwealth as an increasingly multi-cultural world seeks unity, understanding and tolerance.

Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth has become a truly international event, with a whole host of vibrant celebrations reflecting the cultural identities of a total population of more than two billion people. Each country will raise its flag in recognition of a remarkable organisation that fosters shared values in democracy, human rights and the rule of law. In Solihull the Commonwealth Flag will be raised from the flagpole on top of the Council House and I would once again like to allow pupils from our schools and academies the honour of giving the command to hoist the flag at a small ceremony.

*This year's competition is very special as we are launching it in partnership with **Solihull Schools' Year of the Commonwealth Games** and we would like to see everyone coming together under the banner of sport. One of the elements of the Commonwealth Games' Vision Statement is that they will "Bring People Together" and it is this important aspect of the Games that we would like to take as our theme this year.*

"Bringing People Together"

...these Games will embrace and champion the youth, diversity, humanity and pride of the region and the Commonwealth."

We sent off a large number of poems and pictures which were a real testament not only to the talent of our young people, but their commitment to the values of this competition with some really inspiring and moving entries.

We were absolutely thrilled that Shai Moore, one of our year 7 students won the secondary school entry for the competition with the poem below:

I am special in my own way

I am disabled
So don't ever try to convince me that
I can compete in the Commonwealth Games
Because at the end of the day
I can't play sports
And I am not going to lie to myself by saying
I can play sports
So rest assured I will remind myself
That I am disabled, horrible creep
And nothing you say will make me believe
I will change
Because no matter what
I am not good enough to play sport
And I am in no position to believe
That I can change the world
Because whenever I look at myself I say
Change is real!

(Now read bottom to top!)

Shai and his family were invited to The Council House on the 14th of March to be part of the ceremony and at 10.00 am, together with the Primary school winners, the flag for the Commonwealth was raised on the roof of the council building.

Congratulations once again to Shai for his amazing poem, we're very proud of you!!



Karting Success



Harrison is a paid works driver for AirKart.

Harrison is the youngest driver with the team and has progressed to becoming a full works driver this year after achieving significant success last year. He is one of the youngest drivers in the Junior Kart Class, racing karts capable of well over 70mph.

On March 31st and April 1st Harrison took part in a national championship : <https://superoneseries.com/>

The series has a 31-year history of providing a multitude of champions including Jenson Button and has huge coverage both in the UK and Overseas. Races were live streamed and they have lead to opportunities to represent the UK internationally.

Harrison has been Karting since 2018. He keeps it low profile, but he is very dedicated to the sport and constantly trains and works to improve and develop.

Harrison is also very successful, last year his achievements included:

- Overall champion for Hunts Kart Racing Club Minimax
- Double podiums in Superone in the two guest rounds he raced in
- 5th out of 50 drivers in the toughest club championship in the UK
- Strong showing at the British Kart Grand Prix

He has close to 4000 followers on Instagram, a dedicated website and a strong following on Facebook too. Harrison is out almost every weekend either testing or racing come rain or shine, but always ensures he is up to date with his school work.

Working with AirKart, Harrison is representing a young British race team that is taking on feeder teams from the likes of F1 teams such as Mercedes. Indeed, one of Harrison's older rivals has just joined the works Mercedes team as a full-time paid driver at the age of 15 !



Being a Works Race driver for a team at the age of 12 is huge for Harrison, it is a major step for him to pursue his dream of becoming a professional racing driver. Nationwide coverage will boost his profile significantly, ready for next year when the team plan to race in Europe.

ABK Sixth Form

The term has been eventful in the 6th Form with students once again able to attend trips and field study and producing high quality drama presentations. The Year 12 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) groups have presented highly creative work involving diverse topics such as professionally produced novels, a picture book encouraging children to eat vegetables, an activity pack for young people about the death penalty, a video about rocket science and a website to help parents reduce trauma for children in hospital. We are looking forward to forthcoming friendly sporting fixtures against our peers at Tudor Grange whom we have challenged at netball, football and a cricket match in memory of our beloved friend Adam Ali who is in our hearts every day.

It is an exciting time for our Year 13 students who are receiving university offers, some of which are unconditional, such as Ben who aims to study Environmental Science at Portsmouth and Roshni who has been accepted to study Graphic Design at Leeds Beckett University. Another 14 students have made their decisions about their 'firm' and 'insurance' courses and local universities are again a popular choice. Chiara has been offered a place at Brasenose College, Oxford, Charlie has been accepted by the Army and Owen has an unconditional apprenticeship offer for an audit role at Grant Thornton and wrote a great piece to encourage other students in the school Careers Newsletter.



ABK Sixth Form raised over £400 for the Disasters Emergency Committee Fund for Ukraine from a bake sale and more money is flooding in from tutor groups across the school from our wear yellow and blue day.

Thanks to Mrs Hess for all the organisation and all the students and staff who donated cakes!

We have continued to stay in touch with elderly members of the Wednesday Club and we received a very kind thank you message from the family of a Wednesday Club member after Year 13 student Adam wrote to them when this gentleman recently passed away.

Our sixth form had a 'Power Hour' talk from Corinne Brazier, an ex-ABK student who left 20 years ago and has a prestigious job as West Midlands Police's first heritage manager.



She is about to launch the new Birmingham Police Museum this Easter after winning a million pound lottery grant for the force, which will be the most modern and high profile police museum in the country.

Our pride in our alumni is equalled by our pride in current students who are working very hard and showing their ambition.

ABK Geography

On the 14th March, twelve yr 12 Geographers, Mr Mcloughlin and Miss Gumbley packed up the mini bus and headed off for a five day trip to Nettlecombe in Somerset to complete some fieldwork in preparation for their non-examination assessment.

Students investigated a variety of topics throughout the week including infiltration rates, beach profiles, carbon content of a woodland topped off with a visit to the town of Minehead, complete with chippy lunch.

What was even more impressive was, despite some odd looks from the locals, everybody completed their data collection on Tuesday with party hats on to celebrate two birthdays!



All students worked really hard during the day, but always made time for a game of werewolves in the evening!

A very enjoyable week had by all, and it only rained on one day, which is a bonus for a Geography trip!

ABK Football

Congratulations to ABK year 10 boys' football team. Four consecutive victories against local schools have earned them a place in the final of the Birmingham Cup which takes place on Monday 30th May at Villa Park.

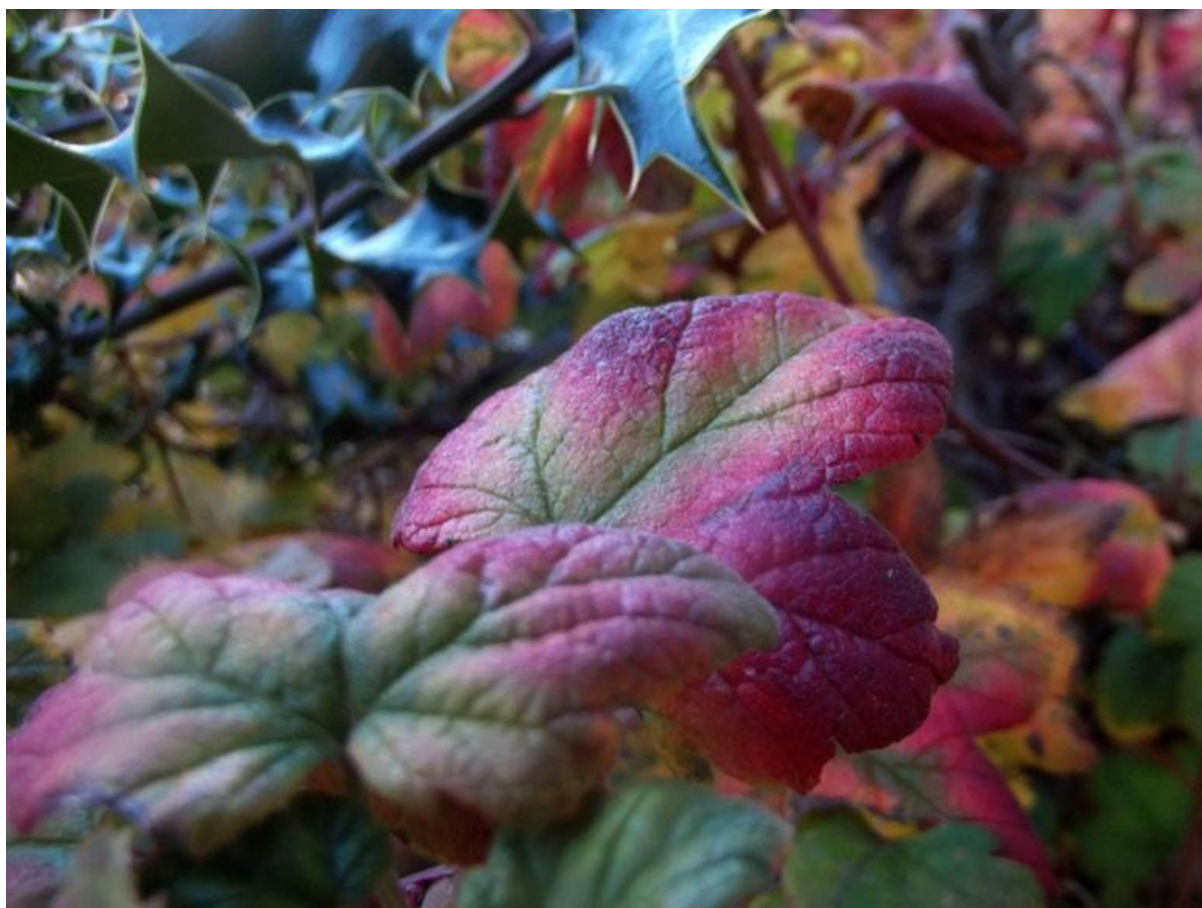
ABK Drama

Congratulations to Bayley, Emily, Sophie, Taylor, Eleanor, Erin, Paige, Izzy, Daisy, Will, Mark, Leah and Harriet – the cast of 'Chat Back' by David Judge. They dedicated a lot of time after school to rehearse and they performed brilliantly on 6th April at the Royal and Derngate theatre in Northampton as well as two excellent shows in school.



ABK Photography Competition

This term's photography competition challenge was to take a photograph representing 'colours in nature'.



All entries will be displayed in the foyer ahead of Malley Hall. The photographs included here are the overall winners.

ABK Modern Foreign Languages

Year 10 French

We have launched a pen-pal project with a school in France. Our year 10 students were extremely excited to receive their first letter at the beginning of the term and are eagerly awaiting their reply from the letters that we have just sent.

Some of them have already been in contact with their pen-pal via social media.

This is a great way to improve their reading and writing skills. We hadn't appreciated just how much the students would enjoy this opportunity!

ABK Exams

With the exams season coming up, just a reminder about the Parent and Students Exam Handbooks.

They include lots of information and can both be found using the following link

<https://www.alderbrookschool.co.uk/examinations/>

There are also a wealth of resources for our year 11 students as they enter the final weeks of their GCSE and BTEC courses.

<https://www.alderbrookschool.co.uk/year-11-resources/>

If you have any questions regarding exams, please direct them to Mrs Tombs in the Exam's Office.

Dates to remember!

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Monday 25 th April 2022 | summer term begins |
| • Tuesday 17 th May 2022 | year 9 & 10 progress update evening |
| • 21 st to 22 nd May 2022 | year 10 Bronze DoE practice expedition |
| • 27 th to 28 th May 2022 | year 9 Bronze DoE practice expedition |
| • Monday 16 th May 2022 | GCSE written exams begin |
| • Monday 23 rd May 2022 | A level written exams begin |
| • 30 th May to 3 rd June 2022 | half term holiday |
| • Monday 30 th May | year 10 boys football final – Villa Park |
| • 10 th to 11 th June 2022 | year 10 Bronze DoE assessed Expedition |
| • 24 th to 25 th June 2022 | year 9 Bronze DoE assessed Expedition |
| • 30 th June and 1 st July 2022 | KS2 to KS3 transition days |
| • Thursday 21 st July 2022 | last day of term |

ABK

Ambition, Bravery and Kindness continue to be school values on which we focus, to ensure that day to day life in school for our students and staff is calm, productive and fruitful and can reflect the enormous efforts that our staff put in to supporting and encouraging your child to be the best that they can be. We thank you as parents and carers also for your support of the school and encouraging your child to respect and engage with our school rules and expectations.