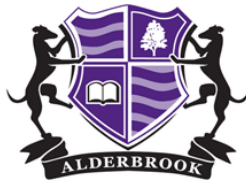


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Alderbrook School

AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS

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ALDERBROOK NEWSLETTER

Edition 8 – July 2022

from Mr Beveridge ...

When the school year started back in September with the disruption from COVID, little did we think that the end of the year would be disrupted by excessive heat - In what has been such a turbulent time for our country perhaps we should not be surprised! Despite such turbulence and challenges, I want to pay tribute to all of our students for their continued resilience throughout this period. This newsletter highlights just some of our students' wide-ranging achievements this year.

It has been fantastic to be able to open up our school again, giving students the chance to show off their talents to a live audience. The presentation evenings, concerts and sports fixtures, to name but a few, have showcased how our students embrace our school values of ambition, bravery and kindness. The recent performances of GREASE were a real highlight of the school year, and I hope you were lucky enough to get a ticket! To see our students performing through dance, music and drama was a joy to watch. Thank you very much for the support you have given to students in all extra-curricular events this year; the Year 10 boys' football team, for instance, have created a lifelong memory in winning the Birmingham Cup at Villa Park in front of an audience of hundreds!

The core business of our school is, of course, teaching and learning, and we have been very impressed by the dedication of our students. Year 11 and 13 have completed the first public exams in 3 years and we wish them all the very best when they receive their exam results in August. It is an exciting time for Alderbrook, with work on our new 7-classroom block well under way, and we will strive to continue to improve our educational offer at Alderbrook.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff for their continued dedication to our students, despite the many challenges that this school year has thrown at them. I also wish all the very best to the staff leaving us this year for pastures new – A big thank you to Elliott Stevenson-Ray, Meg Digweed-Davies, Hanaa Mir, Matt Nicholas, Janeice Daley, Sarah Burton and Deep Bhamra.

I would also like to offer a special mention to Sharon Archer and Parul Arora. Parul is leaving Alderbrook this summer after 18 years working in our English team. She is hugely committed to our students and will be missed by students and staff alike; we wish her all the very best for an exciting opportunity she is taking on at another local school. Sharon is retiring this summer after an incredible 20 years' service to Alderbrook. In her time at the school, Sharon has been a PA to the Headteacher, Data Manager, and the school's HR manager, amongst other earlier roles managing Cover and our Marjorie Willis charity. Her vast experience and support to other colleagues will be greatly missed by all and we wish Sharon a long and happy retirement.

I would also like to thank our Trustees and Members who volunteer their time to support and challenge our Senior Leadership Team. Trustees play a crucial role in the running of our school and if you are interested in joining our Governing Body, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Finally, I'd like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support for our school. Have a lovely summer and we are excited to welcome all students back in September.

Tom Beveridge

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY NEWS

During our LIFE READY DAY we took the opportunity of building upon the COVID mood cubes, still displayed in the MALLEY foyer and encouraged our year 9 to be creative and engage with their mood and emotional state. Their mission was to create a character or emoji and make links to famous British graphic artist Jon Burgerman.

ART Life Ready day Yr 9





Earlier in the year we were delighted to have both winners and runners up in the Rotary and Touchwood Photographic Competition.

We encourage all our students to rise to the challenge when we get the 2023 theme. The work and winners' entries can be seen displayed in Touchwood.



Our students in art and photography have been getting back into routine during the year from restricted practical activities to more normal practice.

Year 7 and 10 recently enjoyed 3D clay work relating to Bugs, Birds or Fish and the year 10 coursework 3D responses to Fantastic Beasts as a theme.



Year 12 Art – hand-painted landscapes :



Year 9 digital flowers created from flower Photography :





YEAR 7 TABLE TOP SALE

Thank you to the Year 7s who recently organised a table top sale.

It was a sell-out and over £150 was raised for Cancer Research. A great example of our school value #kindness in action.



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

SOLUTIONS FOR THE PLANET

Out of over 120 entries in the West Midlands, four of our teams made it into the top 10 of the Solutions for the Planet competition. The Regional Final was held at Aston University and one of our teams won and was asked to go to the National Final at the Palace of Westminster. The regional winners were **ChargeFind** – Tyler, Aidan and Kharamjit.

Also reaching the Regional Final were **REEIL Climate Change** – Imogen, Ellie, Rosa and Ella & **Eco-barr** – Alex, Hannah, Safa and Shannon.

The team with a special commendation were **Pick-up-Points** – Tanisha, Kaitlin and Shannon.



The National Final top 10 was narrowed down from over 500 teams across the country. We also had another team receive a special commendation for their idea with one of the judging panel offering to help make their idea a reality.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kharamjit, Tyler and Aidan who went on to finish 3rd in the national final of the competition!

MFL NEWS

Crêperie

The Modern Foreign Languages department transformed one of the Food Tech rooms into a crêperie for the year 8s where they made and ate pancakes as part of the 'Let's explore Paris' Project. Every year 8 student who studies French had the chance to practice their pancake making skills. The students thoroughly enjoyed the session and were able to take



at least one successful pancake away with them!

We also held a very successful 'Bake Sale' to celebrate the European Day of Languages in September. Over 50 students contributed cakes with a French or Spanish design!

Flamenco Dance Workshop

The Spanish Department hosted a fabulous Flamenco Dance workshop with almost 100 students taking part across KS3 and KS4. It created such a buzz and was a wonderful opportunity to immerse our students in Spanish culture.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Year 9 and 10 students successfully completed their BRONZE DofE expedition in the Peak District.



Whilst Year 12 students have just completed their Gold DofE Qualifying expedition in the Brecon Beacons.

Many congratulations to the successful students and many thanks to staff who looked after them.

PE NEWS

Football

ABK under 16 girls football team won the Solihull Schools Cup.



Whilst our Year 10 boys football team won the Birmingham Schools Cup Final.

Rounders

Our Year 8 girls became Solihull Borough Rounders champions and our year 8 boys managed a draw against Arden in the inaugural mixed rounders festival.

Athletics

We saw some great performances at the Solihull Borough Championships. With the girls taking second place behind Solihull School and the boys taking 4th. There were excellent performances across a wide range of events, but most notable were Harvey's achievements.

Harvey attended the English Schools Athletics Competition in Manchester after being selected during the Solihull Borough Competition. He finished 4th in the 200m in a time of 23.55 seconds, meaning he is fastest in the West Midlands for his age group and ranked 15th in the country.

This is an amazing achievement and he is the fastest student ever to attend Alderbrook.

It was good to be able to welcome the return of our ABK Athletics Championship. On a beautiful day, students from years 7 to 10 took part in track and field events on our own 200 metre course. There were lots of excellent results from regular performers and first-timers alike. Competition was healthy and all athletes were applauded and encouraged by they class mates and their teachers.



PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

After a 3 year hiatus, ABK Performing Arts faculty were able to put on a show!! Many of our ABK staff dressed up for Grease Day! The cast and crew gave four stunning (sold out) performances.



We were delighted to get such a positive response to 'GREASE' from the school community and we were very proud of the standard of the show. In all three elements (dance, music, and acting) we saw some extraordinary performances from students representing the complete age range of the school. We sold 558 tickets overall, far more than any previous show. This means we have easily covered our costs and have extra funds in the Shows budget for our next production. We were also overwhelmed by a plethora of thank you messages, cards and emails following the show.

Prior to the show, we introduced 'Grease Day' to create a focus for the event. This included 'flashmobs' and extracts of the show during assemblies. We also invited staff to wear Pink Lady or T-Bird costumes and staff enjoyed dressing up. It was a successful and enjoyable innovation that we intend to keep for the next show.

We also introduced a 4-show run, including a Saturday matinee and evening show. This not only created more revenue, it enabled staff and parents with children to enjoy the show. We will be retaining this structure for the next show.



The road from page to stage hasn't been straightforward. We've had to be creative at times with key roles and as a team of staff, we gave ourselves a whole academic year, when usually we would get a show done in a term. We weren't sure how long it would take to get the performance skills back on track but the students responded really well.

We have been a cohesive and committed team of staff from the start and throughout. We have an amazing musical director and some fabulous choreographers who have supported students throughout. On the acting side, there have been four directors of equal importance, so it's genuinely been a collegiate effort. The students have been fabulous fun throughout. Brave, passionate, opinionated, creative. They've had the courage of their convictions and the courage to tell us what they want from the show. We've had student directors, student designers and student choreographers support us. We are so lucky to work with such talent and enthusiasm.

NEVE HARVEY – my story so far!

Martial Arts

I have just recently been selected to represent Great Britain in sports karate, I will be flying out to Italy in late September to compete in the WAKO World Championships in open hand and weapons categories. I am hoping to do well in the World Championships as next year the Junior Olympics are being held in America and these categories will be part of this event. Next weekend as part of my training I am attending a GB training camp held at Lilleshall national sports centre which is very exciting and will be a great experience as I have never been there before.



I have already competed in international events across Europe including Ireland, Holland, Hungary and Italy, due to COVID lots of events were cancelled over the last few years but this year I have competed in Venice, Italy at the National Italian Open, I won gold in the two events I entered, meaning that I retained my title of under 17 Female Italian Champion.

Tricking

I also compete in a sport called "Tricking" - a mixture of gymnastics, martial arts and break dancing. I have training for about five years now and I was voted female athlete of the year in 2020 just before COVID hit. I have now been recognised as a female professional athlete, meaning that I get flown out to events. So far this year I have been to Oslo in Norway and later on this year in September I am attending an event in Washington DC in America.

This year has been crazy for me, below are some of my achievements :

- One of my videos on Instagram has been viewed over 3 million times
- I have over 30k followers on Instagram
- I now have my own Top Trumps card, which is so cool
- I have been interviewed and had an article published in a sports magazine called Project Gravity
- I am a sponsored athlete for AcroPAD (who produce air tracks that aid young athletes to train at home or in the gym)



My aim for the future is to become a stunt woman in TV and film or perform in Cirque de Soleil around the world.

Amazing Neve, we're really proud of you!

EXAMINATIONS

Year 11 and Year 13 students conducted themselves superbly over the entire examination season. There were 91 different exams over a 5 week period. CONGRATULATIONS to the students for getting it all done and THANK YOU to all of the examination staff and the invigilators and the site staff for make it all happen. Results days are listed below.

DATES FOR DIARIES

| | |
|--|---|
| Thursday 18 th August 2022 | GCE results day |
| Thursday 25 th August 2022 | GCSE results day and sixth form enrolment |
| Monday 5 th September 2022 | INSET day |
| Tuesday 6 th September 2022 | INSET day |
| Wednesday 7 th September 2022 | First day of term for year 7 (8:30am), year 8 (9:30am), year 11 (11:00am) & year 12 (10:00am) |
| Thursday 8 th September 2022 | All year groups 7-13 in school for 8.30 am |

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.

SOCIAL MEDIA



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