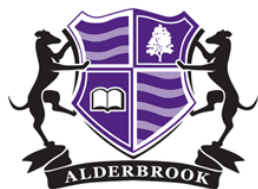


Alderbrook Newsletter - December 2022



Alderbrook School

AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS



from Mr Beveridge ...

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and the accounts it contains about the wide-ranging talents and achievements of our students.

It has been an exciting start to the school year at Alderbrook. We have seen the centre of the site transformed as the new build continues in earnest. In September we welcomed our biggest ever cohorts of Year 7 and Year 12, and both cohorts have made a fantastic start. Reading continues to be a focus across the school with a number of different initiatives and strategies being implemented to improve students' reading ability and promote a love of reading. One of these initiatives has been our new 'Uniquely Portable Magic' project, where form tutors are reading to their form groups three times a week. We hope students are enjoying this opportunity to hear interesting stories, and as some groups near the end of their first books, they will be introduced to new texts in the new year.

The achievements of our students are wide-ranging, and it has been wonderful to see students performing on the stage and under the lights in our recent dance, music and drama performances. Students continue to excel in the classroom and on the sports field and it has also been lovely to see students involved in a large array of extra-curricular activities. There are many achievements not mentioned below, and I would like to mention all students who have been recognised for their ongoing hard work and effort in the Presentation Evenings earlier in the term, and the celebration assemblies this week. Well done to all.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay homage to our staff, who continue to work relentlessly to support our students. Staff take great pleasure in organising trips and visits for students, and it has been fantastic to be able to take students on field trips, to the theatre in Leicester and Birmingham and on a team-building trip to Shropshire to name but a few. In the Summer, Miss Sheikh and Mr Galbraith took students on a once-in-a-lifetime World Challenge trip to Malaysia; the students had an incredible time which you can see from the photos in the article inside! Next year will see the return of our annual ski trip to Folgarida in Italy, a trip to Iceland at Easter, Andalucia in May, a music trip to Paris and our Sixth Formers off to Rome and Naples. This is just a sample of the large number of trips and events that our staff have planned for students to enrich and support their cross curricular learning and interests and all are being looked forward to enormously!

I hope all students are able to have a rest and break over Christmas, and even though some students have exams in January, it is important they have some time off. This term we say goodbye to two members of staff who are going on to new challenges – Eleigh Williams and Helen Jamieson. I would like to thank them for all they have done at Alderbrook and wish them all the very best for the future.

I wish you all a safe, happy and restful Christmas break.

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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.



ABK ARC

We have been getting festive in the ARC with help of B&Q Solihull who have kindly donated a Christmas tree and decorations to us. The students were very excited to receive their delivery and had great fun decorating the tree together.

Pre-loved Uniform Sales

We have been holding pre-loved uniform sales at various events since July. So far, £528.50 has been raised and all proceeds will go towards supporting the development of our provision for students. We are always in need of more donations, so if you have any uniform or PE kit in good condition that you no longer need, it can be dropped off by your child at Main Reception. Thank you for your generosity and your continued support.



ABK Performing Arts

Our Performing Arts Dance Department kicked off Christmas in style with their sensational Winter Wonderland Dance Production.

Across two jam-packed shows to an audience of 400 people, over 150 energetic and dynamic dancers generated an electric atmosphere as they performed an incredible array of dances from across this term's curriculum, paired with a spectacular lighting show, special effects and immense sound.

The dedication and effort from the students, dance teachers and technical team truly made this event one to remember!



Dates for Diaries

Tuesday 3 January
INSET day

Wednesday 4 January
first day of school for all year groups

Wednesday 18 January
Year 12 Parents Consultation Evening

Thursday 26 January
Year 10 Parents Consultation Evening

Monday 30 January
Year 11 mock exams begin

Wednesday 15 February
Year 8 Parents Consultation Evening

Collection for AGE UK

A huge thank you to our staff, parents, carers and students who all responded so magnificently to our request for Christmas chocolate and biscuits. A representative from Age UK came into school to collect your donations and was so impressed by the vast array waiting for her! The gifts are being packed up as we speak and will be distributed to older people in our community at Christmas parties and befriending visits and we hope, will help them to know they are particularly thought of and cared for at this festive time of year. The representative from Age UK had this to say:

"I'm pleased to say you collected an absolutely amazing 132 items of biscuits, chocolates and selection boxes. You should be very proud of the response you had from your school community, they will certainly bring some festive cheer to the older people in Solihull who will receive them. Please pass on our thanks to everyone who donated, it really is appreciated."



ABK Careers Convention



Representatives from dozens of companies, colleges and universities shared information and stories and literature with hundreds of students and family members at our 2022 Careers Convention.

Students were inspired and informed and our visitors were impressed by the level of interest that was shown by our students from years 10 to 13.

LIFE READY DAY

Wednesday 5th December was our first full LIFE READY DAY since before Lockdown 1 !!.

Students across all years had their own timetable of lessons to follow that covered these 6 themes :

- Year 7 : FRIENDSHIP
- Year 8 : BRITISH VALUES
- Year 9 : WELL BEING
- Year 10 : RELATIONSHIPS
- Year 11 : EXAM and REVISION TIPS
- Year 12 & 13 : CELEBRATING DIFFERENT CULTURES



ABK World Champion

Alderbrook School has a new World Champion.

After a roller coaster of emotions for her family Neve managed to keep calm and beat 12 other competitors from various countries around the world to win in style with scores of 9.9, 10, 10, 10, 9.8 the highest achieved of any competitor throughout the World Association of Kickboxing Organisations Championships.

An incredible achievement !!

COP 27 Summit

ABK is so proud of Holly, Izzy and Jessica for representing Saudi Arabia in a COP27 summit at Solihull Council chambers on Thursday 17th November. 10 schools from the borough attended the summit, each given a country to represent. Our students were given a toughie; Saudi Arabia, which is the highest polluter of CO2 emissions in the world. Their opening speech, delivered by Izzy, was then followed by a Q+A session where the students had to answer some very difficult questions posed by other countries; they were fantastic in their responses. Then over a short break Saudi Arabia struck some very good bi-lateral deals with other countries aimed at being ambitious in reducing climate change.



Year 8 Bake Sale

Congratulations to Gabby, Mia P, Rosie, Cameron, Aleena, Mia J and Spencer who recently organised a cake sale to raise money for a new school football kit. They spent a long time preparing for, and organising, this event and raised over £120. Mr Scott had promised the students that he would match any monies raised, so we are well on our way to funding the kit now! Thank you to these pupils for their fantastic efforts.



ABK Art

Year 12 Art students have been working alongside the language department in order to make links between the arts and languages. Taking inspiration from Spanish artists such as Salvador Dali and Joaquin Sorolla the students have created portraits of the language department staff in the style of the artists.

ABK Library

'Short Horror Stories' Competition winner :

Army of the Dead by Taylor M.

It's the First World War. The Allies shouting, screaming and choking in the gas. The cries of pain echo across no man's land. The Germans provided cover fire to their advancing troops. The boom of heavy artillery guns in the distance made the soldiers tremble. Unable to see their guns due to the fog, they cannot return fire.

On the other side, however, things were going smoothly. Commanders shouting at their troops in German. The machine gunners firing blindly at the mist.

The Allies fumbling with their gas masks were driven mad by the smell of the burned corpses of their comrades. Dry blood caked the dirt and bones lay beneath their feet. The Allies had had enough. They would make a final stand.

From the German trenches come a shout from a soldier claiming to have been shot. From where? Emerging from the fog, the Allies. Bullet wounds and shrapnel protruding from their bodies, blood spraying from their limbs. Too shocked to shoot, the Axis forces began saying prayers and crying to themselves.

The Allies are in their trenches now, slaughtering them mercilessly like animals. Guts fly like saucers in the air, the allies' gas masks covered in the mess. Unphased, they started picking out organs of the dead like keepsakes. This is the army of the dead.

ABK MFL

The MFL Department have been very busy with a range of events and competitions for our students.

Kicking off the year with our Annual Bake Off to celebrate the European Day of Languages in September. Well done to Amy and Maya for winning with a most beautiful cake.

In November the French Department hosted the Onatti Theatre company for all KS4 students (as well as some of our most enthusiastic linguists in year 8!). The students are always surprised by how much they understand and the audience participation element went down well as usual.

It will be the Spanish Department's turn in February.

We have finished the term with a 'Christmas around the world' card design competition. We decided to offer this to the whole school to encourage students who speak another language in addition to English to join in too!

ABK Sports

Boys' Football

Year 7	1-3	Arden
Year 7	5-0	Light Hall
Year 7	5-3	Tudor Grange
Year 7	4-3	St Peters
Year 8	2-1	Priory
Year 8	8-1	Tudor Grange
Year 10	3-1	JHNCC
Year 10	3-5	Lode Heath
Year 10	3-1	Heart of England
Year 11	0-2	Coleshill
Year 11	5-0	Lode Heath
Year 11	3-1	Phoenix Collegiate

Girls' Football - Solihull Satellite League

Under 13's 1 st team	: W3 D4 L2 Overall 4th
Under 13's 2 nd team	: W2 D2 L5 Overall 7th
Under 16's 1 st team	: W4 D2 L3 Overall 3rd
Under 16's 2 nd team	: W3 D1 L5 Overall 5 th

Netball

Year 7	0-7	Tudor Grange
Year 7	3-4	Solihull
Year 7	0-7	Arden
Year 8	12-2	St Peters
Year 12/13	0-19	Solihull
Year 12/13	6-6	Tudor Grange

After winning the Birmingham Cup last season, we entered the year 11 football team into a larger cup competition. On Wednesday they beat Phoenix Collegiate 3-1 in the West Midlands Cup and are now through to the 3rd round.

World Challenge



20 students took part in an amazing expedition to the magnificent country of Malaysia. They trekked and camped under deep jungle canopy, tackled the white water of the Kampar river and hiked the spectacular Cameron Highlands. The charming coastal city of Malacca gave us an opportunity to contribute to the community through painting a school building. We learned about the endangered hawksbill turtle and how human actions are threatening their habitats, so we carried out a beach clean-up and recycled the trash found.

Following such a transformative expedition, the July 2024 expedition to eSwatini & Kruger is now up and running, with another 15 students preparing to take on the challenge.

ABK Christmas Cards

A very well done to Jack and Aneeka, two year 12 students, for their photography and Art designs for this year's school Christmas card!

We are so proud of all the talent shown by our students and this year's entries were very hard to choose between, but Jack and Aneeka were deserving winners and will be taking home copies of their cards to share with family and friends.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR