

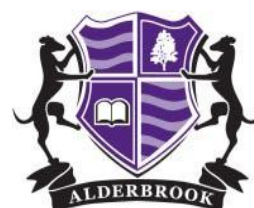
Alderbrook School

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24 October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I'm sure you will agree the first half term of the new academic year has gone very quickly! Our students have made a brilliant start to the school year and we hope they all have a restful and enjoyable half term break. A big thank you to all families who kindly made donations for our Food Bank appeal. The response was incredibly positive and the donations will make a huge difference to this very worthy cause. We wish our year 11s well in their mock exams this week and the first week back after half term. Year 9s have their assessments starting in the week commencing 11 November for two weeks and as always, we are grateful for your support in encouraging your child to prepare for these.

Another busy half term awaits us with Key Stage 4 Presentation Evening on Wednesday 6 November and Sixth Form Open evening on Thursday 14 November. Our current Sixth Form psychologists and English students have a trip out in the first week back and thank you for your continued support of these trips which are such a positive addition to the curriculum. Year 8 parents evening is scheduled for Wednesday 20 November and a letter with details on how to book your appointments will be going out in the first week back after half term. There are quite a few updates below, please take time to read all relevant information.

Housekeeping reminders

We are having a lot of sports kit dropped into school. We ask that parents/carers do not come onto site during the school day unless you have a pre-arranged appointment or a pass to do so. We have spare kit that can be provided. Also, a reminder please that if your child has an appointment you will need to email absence@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk or put a note in their planner. Please do not come onto site to drop your child back; they can use the pedestrian gate and sign back in on arrival at school.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind parents about uniform as, unfortunately, some incorrect uniform is creeping in. Hoodies are strictly prohibited and will be confiscated if brought into school. Shoes need to be plain black leather; trainers and pumps are not allowed. Finally, ankle socks and knee-high socks can be worn but over-the-knee socks are not part of our uniform policy. We very much appreciate your support with this.

Parking off site

Can we please ask that you are considerate to our neighbours who live in the roads surrounding the school and do not block drives or park in restricted areas. We all need to work together as a community and inconsiderate parking causes frustration and distress to the residents of these roads. The Council are kept apprised and Enforcement Officers can be deployed to issue tickets for illegal parking. Can we also ask you not to park on any double yellow lines or by school entrances as with buses trying to get on and off site, this can cause huge disruption and block emergency access. Thank you for your support with this.



Alderbrook School
& Sixth Form

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Rewards Events

Following feedback from parents and students, we will be making changes to the Reward Events that usually run at the end of the academic year. Trying to squeeze in too many Reward Events at the end of the Summer Term, at a time when theme parks / tourist attractions are at their busiest, is not proving attractive enough to students, and an increasing number of those who are eligible to attend have chosen not to, which is counterproductive.

We have plans to run trips to exciting new attractions at a different point in the school year.

These trips will be linked to the annual House Competition (which is based upon Credits, House Points, Extracurricular and participation in House Events) and we hope they will prove more attractive and inclusive to all students.

Free Schools Meals allowance

For parents/carers who receive this allowance; to respond to some of the most frequently asked questions:

- The daily allowance for FSM is £2.55
- This allowance can only be used at lunchtime and in one transaction and any purchases made before school or at break must be funded by the parent/carer
- If the allowance is not used it is lost and unspent allowances cannot be carried over
- FSM allowance is added automatically but does not appear on ParentPay
- Overspends above the allowance will appear on ParentPay

Further information can be found at www.solihull.gov.uk/fsm

Extra curricular clubs at Alderbrook

At Alderbrook we understand the vital role that enrichment activities, that take place beyond classroom lessons, play in a child's social, emotional and academic development. We offer a wide range of opportunities that are supported by a number of wonderful and dedicated staff, without whom these activities could not run. We encourage all our students to try something from this fantastic offer.

A list of extracurricular clubs, with details of what's on and when, is available on the school website: <https://www.alderbrookschool.co.uk/extra-curricular>

Request from Our Voices Heard hosted by Solihull Parent Carer Voice - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE with SEND - we need your vote!

Parents and Carers of our young people with SEND will be aware of the partnership working we have been doing with Our Voices Heard and this engagement continues to go from strength to strength, with everyone's aim to make a real difference to our families. In December Our Voices Heard are holding another Let's Talk SEND Event, where they will be celebrating some of our children and young people from around Solihull. Here is a message from Our Voices Heard:

We also would like to celebrate any school staff that CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND think are doing a good job of supporting, welcoming and including children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. So we need children and young people to tell us who the school staff are that they think are fabulous and why.

We would like children and young people with SEND (with help from their parent/carers where needed) to answer 3 questions in the form attached- what school do they go to? What is the name of the member of staff? why do they think this member of staff is amazing?

<https://forms.office.com/r/J6JzZLpHaJ>



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Police advice

As you know, we work closely with the local policing team, and they have asked that we share this message with you:

As Halloween and Bonfire Night approaches, West Midlands Police would like to encourage you to talk to your child about staying safe and sensible during this time. Remember...

- Stay visible at night by wearing fluorescent clothing or head torches
- Supervise children with sparklers and at firework displays
- Warn your children about stranger danger and only trick or treating in well-lit, known areas
- It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess a firework, flare or smoke bomb. You can download our free parents' guide of safety tips [here](#).

If you want to report something suspicious call 101 or 999 in an emergency. For more information about how West Midlands Police are helping keep you safe this Halloween, search 'WMP Darker Nights'.

Events during October half term at The Core

Please find information below from Solihull Council regarding a series of events to enjoy over half term.

Diwali Arts Day, The Core, Sun 27 October

Enjoy a family-friendly day this Sunday at The Core filled with vibrant arts, crafts, dance and more. Places must be booked. [Find out more and book](#)

Sari Sari Night Lantern Parade, The Core, Sun 27 October

FREE lantern parade through Solihull town centre starting at The Core - a dazzling evening of food, music and dance! [Find out more](#)

Jungle Book, The Studio at The Core, Thu 31 October

Embark on an adventure with Rudyard Kipling's classic tale The Jungle Book. A family shadow puppet show, full of wild fun and excitement! [Find out more and book](#)

Encore Café, The Core, open Monday to Saturday

If you're coming to The Core or Solihull town centre, why not treat yourself at the Encore Café. The perfect spot for a delicious breakfast, lunch, drink or snack!

[View menu and opening hours](#)

Best wishes



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher

