

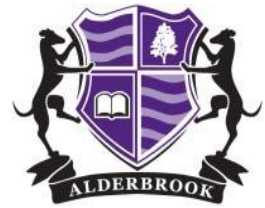
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22 November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

A few headlines from the start of this half term

It was lovely to welcome our parents and carers to our first Parent Quiz in school last week – lots of fun and ‘This is not a drill’ were worthy winners! We will be making this a more regular event and hope even more of you can join us next time to help raise money for our Marjorie Willis Foundation. Our Sixth Form Open Evening last week had a very high turnout and it was great to see so many of our year 11s and students from other schools exploring their next steps and meeting our Sixth Form teachers. A reminder to our former year 11 students that they can collect their exam certificates on Monday 2 December at 3.15pm – 5.15pm in Cartwright Hall. These can be collected by someone other than the student but they must bring a letter of authorisation with them that can be kept on file. Good luck to our year 8 & 9 students on their first Cadet Force Camp this weekend and thank you to our colleagues in school, Mrs Mills, Mrs Hatton, Mr Middleton and Miss Fielding for supporting this programme.

Assessment periods

Our year 7 students begin their assessments next week and information on topics for revision can be found on Classcharts. Then it is the turn of Year 12 who will be sitting their first set of formal assessments from Monday 9th December. Class teachers will advise students on what to revise for these tests. Good luck to all of our Year 7 and 12 students. Also, just a reminder that soon after the Christmas holidays, Year 10 and Year 8 students will be completing assessments.

Winter productions

We are delighted to announce a series of productions from our Dance and Drama departments, featuring our very talented students. Your support at these events is always much appreciated. The link for tickets is [here](#) and we look forward to welcoming you!

Winter Wonderland Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 November, Malley Hall

Winter Concert Wednesday 27 November, Malley Hall

High School Musical production – Tuesday 17 – Thursday 19 December, Malley Hall

Christmas lunch – Wednesday 11 December 2024

Christmas lunch will be available on Wednesday 11 December and your child can view the menu [here](#)



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Outreach Family Hub

Please find attached a timetable for the Shirley Heath Outreach Hub which details the sessions that are available every day with a Family Support Worker there every Thursday 9-10.30 am for families to drop in and talk to. The full timetable is [here](#)

Sprint works – Hobs Moat Road

Southbound Lane closure from Monday 25 November 2024. This will be in place on Hobs Moat Road between Old Lode Lane and Melton Avenue roundabout until the early hours of Monday 2 December. Further information can be found [here](#)

Smartphones

I sent a letter to you on Tuesday this week and attach a further copy [here](#).

Messages from the Police

The police have asked us to share with you the attached letter about knife crime. Thankfully knife crime is very low in our area but we ask you to read this advice and talk to your children about it. Please read the letter [here](#).

As the nights get longer and we enter the winter period, the police have also asked us to share the messages below as they see an increase in burglary and vehicle crime at this time of year. We will also be speaking to the students about how they can stay safe, particularly after dark.

Burglary – invest in timer switches for lights so that they come on when you are out of the house. Invest in home security – ring door bells, CCTV, good locks etc. Anything that will make your home unappealing to burglars. Also, be very careful what you post on social media as burglars can use the information to understand when your home will be unoccupied. Similarly, apps like ‘track my run’ advertise your routines and people can find out where you’ll be vulnerable at certain times.

Vehicle crime – many vehicles are stolen via keyless devices which jam signals and allow vehicles to be stolen without keys. A lot of vehicles are being stolen from retail park and supermarket car parks because people walk away from their vehicles and use a fob to lock it. The criminal will then use their device to jam the signal and stop the vehicle being locked. Always physically check the door handle to ensure you have locked your car. A top tip would be, whether your car is parked at home or elsewhere, invest in an old fashioned steering lock, which will make the vehicle much harder to steal and thus not an attractive target. Another great investment are good quality trackers. Finally, never be tempted to leave your engine running to defrost a car whilst you wait in the house. A lot of cars are stolen because of this.

Best wishes



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher



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