

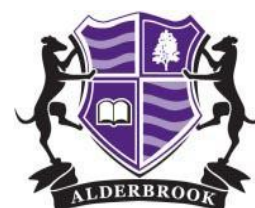
Alderbrook School

Blossomfield Road
Solihull
West Midlands
B91 1SN

Tel: 0121 704 2146

Email: office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk

Web: www.alderbrookschool.co.uk



Company registered England & Wales no. 07687619

21 March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Smartphones

I'd like to give you an update on our continuing work to reduce the harms of smartphones on our young people. I'm sure many of you will have watched Netflix's Adolescence with shock, as I did, and although it focuses on the most extreme end of the harms of social media, it very effectively puts the spotlight on the online world that many of our children are much better versed in than we are as parents. I am hopeful that there continues to be momentum around this issue at a national and government level, with Labour now reviewing their initial hesitation to bring into law a smartphone ban in schools. Whatever the government decides, the issue does not start and end with schools, and we will continue to consider how we can reduce the impact of smartphones on our young people in all parts of their lives.

We are continuing to work with other schools locally on this issue as we believe collective action will be the most effective way to support parents and carers. We now have 65 Solihull schools agreeing to collective action on Smartphones and we are working with the final 15 local schools who are yet to sign up. We have applied for further funding to take this work forward. We are also working with the Local Authority, and particularly Public Health, who are supporting this initiative, and we are starting to engage with the community voluntary sector. I will keep you updated with this work moving forward, and please keep an eye on our social media platforms, where we will post research and information to support you as parents and carers.

New communication system

We have now migrated over to our new communication system for parents/carers which means that SimsParent **will no longer be used and will need to be replaced by My Child at School (MCAS)**. We will be using this app with immediate effect, going forward, to send all communications and notifications from school to you. Whilst you will still receive emails and texts from school if you do not upload the app, can I reiterate the benefits from having all of the information from school on one app, to view in one place. **Once you have registered to use MCAS you will no longer receive emails or texts directly from school, but will receive a push notification when correspondence is sent from school. Correspondence will appear in messages on the app.** Please see link to letter sent to parents/carers with more details on the MCAS app and its features [here](#).

Can we please ask that if you have recently changed your email address or have moved house that you notify us with all necessary information at 201office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk or via MCAS and we will update our records.

Lastly can we ask you to add **abkbromcom@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk** to your safe senders list to ensure you receive emails sent out from the system.



Alderbrook School
& Sixth Form

AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS

Year 11 and Year 13 Examination Updates

As we are approaching the formal examination season, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight what support is available in school to help your son or daughter with their studies:

- On Tuesday 1st April, we will be holding a 'Mocks Results Morning', where Year 11 students will be receiving their mock examination grades.
- On Thursday 3rd April, we have Year 11 intervention evening where teachers will make appointments with parents if there is anything that they wish to discuss. Parents can also book appointments with subject teachers to discuss any specific concerns.
- On our INSET day on 11th April, some Year 11 and 13 students are invited into school to complete work in a specific subject. You will have received a letter from Mrs Hobbs if this involves your child.
- May I also draw your attention to our revision timetable which runs every week for Year 11 and Year 13 students and I strongly urge your son and daughter to make the most of these additional sessions that staff are providing. The timetables can be found on our website [Examinations - Alderbrook School](#)
- You will also have received a letter about Masterclasses that are running over Easter (for Year 11) and over May half term (for Year 13). If you would like to book a place for your son or daughter, the deadline is 26th March for Year 11 and 4th April for Year 13.
- Finally, a reminder that the awarding bodies have set Wednesday 25th June 2025 as the 'contingency day' for examinations so it is imperative that all students remain available up to, and including, this date.

Uniform reminder

As we enjoy the warmer weather, please can I ask for your support in ensuring that all students wear the correct uniform to school. Blazers need to be worn every day and hooded tops are not permitted. May I also remind parents that trainers cannot be worn to school under any circumstances.

Calendar reminders

Author visit by Jennifer Killick for year 7 students - Tuesday 25 March

Year 11 Mock results – Tuesday 1 April

Year 11 intervention evening – Thursday 3 April

Spring Concert – Wednesday 2 April

A reminder there will be an INSET day on Friday 11 April 2025 for staff only and we welcome all year groups back to school after the Easter holidays on Monday 28 April.

Best wishes



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher



Alderbrook School
& Sixth Form
AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS