

ABK NEWS

July 2025

From Mr Beveridge ...

It is hard to believe that I am writing this letter to you all at the end of another academic year. As we all know, time flies in school from term to term and I'm sure many of you cannot believe your children have just left our Year 11 or Year 13 having completed their exams and deciding on their next steps in life and careers. We look forward very much to seeing all of our students at results days in August and hope their focus and hard work has resulted in all they hope for.

I cannot mention exams without of course paying a very sincere tribute to our staff across the school who work so hard to teach, encourage and support every one of our students to be the very best that they can be and on behalf of myself, the Leadership Team and Trustees, I thank each and every one of them.

I hope you enjoy reading our Summer Celebration Newsletter – this is still just a snapshot of all the many trips and events, both in school and further afield that your children have been involved in. The breadth of curriculum events, trips, sporting events, SEND events, performances and so many more is extensive, and I applaud our students for having the courage to try something new.

Some colleagues are leaving us at the end of next week and I would like to thank them for all their endeavours whilst with us and wish them every success for their next move. Leaving us will be:

Teaching Staff

Faz Rahim – Science teacher
Cat Barratt – History teacher
Maheen Tahir – Computing teacher
Richard Graham – English teacher
Sabaa Batool – RE teacher

Support Staff

Rose Marlow – Science Technician
Caitlin Houlihan – Cover Supervisor
Amy Becker – Librarian

We look forward to welcoming new colleagues joining the Alderbrook family in September, and we very much look forward to welcoming all students back in the new school year. In the meantime I'd like to wish you all a restful and happy summer break.

Tom Beveridge

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TRIPS – HOME & ABROAD

ICELAND 2025

On the 10th April, 50 GCSE Geography students and 5 members of staff jetted off to Iceland. Following several volcanic eruptions in the months in the run up to the trip, including one during the week before, we were all very relieved and excited when we finally touched down in Reykjavik.

We had 5 days with a jam-packed itinerary including glacier-walking, visits to the geothermal spas and waterfalls. We then finished off the trip with a spectacular lava show and virtual flight over Iceland.

Students had a fantastic time and made lots of memories.







SKI TRIP

Our recent school ski trip was an unforgettable adventure filled with fun, friendship, and fantastic experiences. This year, our destination was the stunning ski resort of Folgarida, Italy, where students enjoyed an action-packed week at the beautiful Hotel Bracconniere.

From the moment we arrived, the students were eager to hit the slopes. Folgarida's snow-covered mountains provided the perfect playground for skiers of all levels, from beginners to more advanced enthusiasts. Each day, our students eagerly took to the pistes, improving their skills, gaining confidence, and embracing the thrill of skiing in such an incredible location. The well-maintained ski runs and breath-taking Alpine scenery created a memorable backdrop for this fantastic sporting adventure.

Aside from skiing, the trip was filled with lively and engaging activities. One of the highlights was the evening karaoke sessions, where students showed off their singing talents and cheered on their friends in a relaxed, fun atmosphere.

Of course, no trip to Italy would be complete without enjoying the local cuisine, and our stay at Hotel Bracconniere offered just that. The students delighted in authentic Italian dishes, savouring fresh pasta, rich sauces, and traditional desserts. The warm hospitality of the hotel staff, combined with the delicious food, made meal times a social highlight of the trip.

One of the most impressive aspects of this trip was the exceptional behaviour demonstrated by all students. Throughout the week, everyone showed respect, kindness, and responsibility, ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment for all. We are proud to report that there were no injuries during the entire trip, a testament to the careful supervision and mature conduct of the students.

A huge thank you to all staff, students, and parents/carers who made this trip possible. Your support and cooperation were vital in making the experience safe, fun, and memorable.



BELGIUM MUSIC TOUR

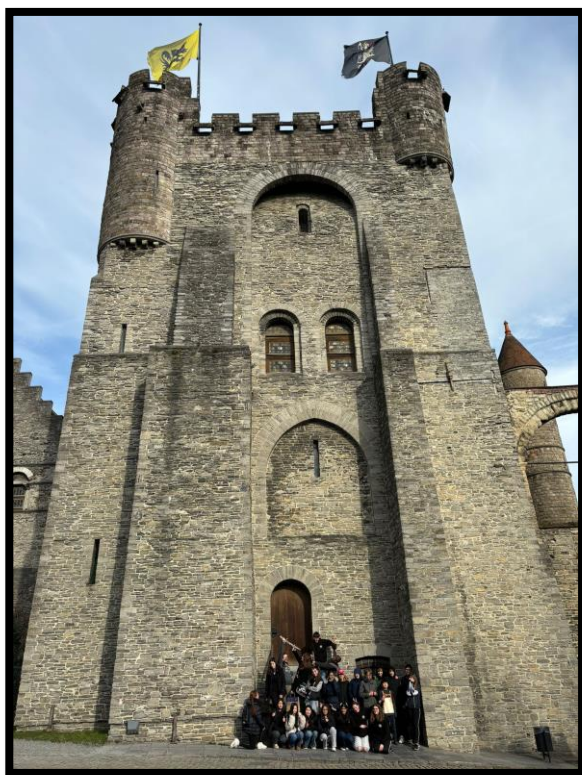
In February, the Music Department went on tour to Belgium with the extracurricular music groups.

Whilst here they performed at three different venues across the country with many different audience members enjoying the delights that Alderbrook musicians had to offer.

On the trip, we had members of the choir, orchestra, many bands, solo acts and trios- it really was a musical delight for all!

We travelled to Ghent to visit a castle, to Bruges for a canal boat tour and chocolate factory, visited a WW2 museum as well as paying tribute at Tyne Cot Cemetery.

The students were a credit to the school and both staff and students had an amazing time.



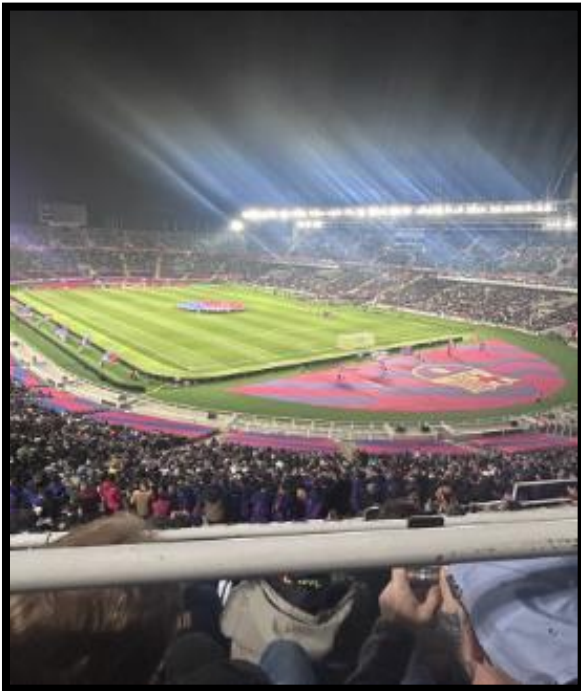
SIXTH FORM TRIP to BARCELONA

Our 6th form trip to Barcelona was nothing short of spectacular! Packed with enriching experiences, it offered a perfect balance of culture, history, and fun. We began with visits to iconic landmarks like La Sagrada Família, where students were in awe of Gaudí's architectural genius. The Gaudí House tour was another highlight, giving everyone a deeper understanding of the artist's unique style and vision.

The cultural immersion continued with a hands-on paella-making session, where students not only learned to prepare this traditional Spanish dish but also got to taste the fruits of their labour. It was a great bonding experience and a real hit with everyone!

One of the trip's crowning moments was attending a Barcelona FC game. The atmosphere was electric, and seeing the team in action was unforgettable. The students' enthusiasm and passion for the game made the experience even more special.

Throughout the trip, our wonderful students showcased impeccable behaviour, making the entire journey even more enjoyable. The friendships formed, the laughter shared, and the shared awe at the city's beauty made this trip one for the books. Wonderful memories all around!



POETRY LIVE

We were very excited to take part in the GCSE Poetry Live event at Birmingham's Symphony Hall in January 2025. The event included Britain's Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, as well as poets: Carol Ann Duffy, John Agard and Imtiaz Dharker. All four poets have had their work published in the AQA GCSE Power & Conflict Anthology which students in Year 11 were studying in their English Literature lessons. Poets responded to student questions and discussed how poems connected to and influenced other poems in the GCSE anthology.

As well as Q&A sessions with the poets, students were also able to listen to a highly experienced Chief Examiner who discussed two skills vital for success in the GCSE English Literature examinations. The first session with the examiner looked at how students might deal with unseen poems in the exam, both how to think about them and how to write for the best possible results. The second session looked at comparing poems, whether they are studied poems or unseen, and how to write most effectively in either situation.

All students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained valuable insight into the qualities needed for a GCSE response.



SOCIOLOGY & CRIMINOLOGY TRIP

Year 13 Social Science students visited Shrewsbury Prison in January. The prison which became decommissioned in March 2013 is still open to visitors and students were able to apply their learning from the classroom to the prison.

They explored concepts such as how the media portray crime and criminals, forms of punishment including custodial sentencing and the effectiveness of prisons.

As part of their day student attempted an escape room from one of the cells previously used by real prisoners!



PSYCHOLOGY TRIP

Year 13 Psychology students enjoyed a trip to The Freud Museum. Students visited Freud's home where he lived and worked during the final years of his life. The students enjoyed a workshop on schizophrenia delivered by a trained psychoanalyst using Freudian principles to treat real patients.

CRIMINOLOGY EVENT

In July Year 12 Criminology students engaged in our annual Crime Scene to Courtroom Workshop.

Students applied their knowledge from Unit 3 Criminology to analyse a crime scene, conducted a police investigation led by an ex-police officer and finally tried the case in a mock crown court.

The students learnt about key personnel and processes involved in a criminal investigation. The day finished with students delivering some excellent performances taking on the roles of judge, jury, barristers and key witnesses including the suspect who made some shocking revelations on the stand!

The day ended in a not guilty verdict – the suspect got off lightly!



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Our recent school trip to the Natural History Museum in London proved to be an unforgettable and educational experience for all involved. Linking directly to many aspects of our Geography curriculum, the visit provided students with the opportunity to engage with real-world issues and explore our dynamic planet in an exciting, hands-on environment.

One of the highlights of the day was the interactive earthquake simulator that showed what it might have felt like during the 1995 Kobe earthquake in Japan. This brought the theory of tectonic activity to life and deepened students' understanding of the impact of natural disasters.

The 'Restless Earth' section of the museum was particularly insightful, clearly explaining key concepts such as plate tectonics, seismic activity, and volcanic processes.

Another standout part of the day was the 'Save the Planet' workshop. Students worked in small, collaborative groups to design creative and innovative solutions to tackle climate change, using Lego to model their ideas. The results were both thought-provoking and inspiring, with presentations that demonstrated critical thinking, problem-solving, and genuine care for the future of our planet.

Throughout the day, our students were an absolute credit to the school, showing curiosity, enthusiasm, and excellent behaviour. Their creativity and teamwork during the workshop especially stood out.

A huge thank you to the staff who supported the organisation and supervision of the trip: Mrs Walshe, Miss Gumbley, Mr Usman, and Mr Tong. Your time and effort helped make this trip a resounding success!







TOWER OF LONDON

In October and July, the History department were given an exciting opportunity to visit London and explore the Tower of London. Our visits provided students with an unforgettable journey through centuries of British history.

From the moment we stepped through the ancient gates, we were immersed in the fortress's dramatic past. A Yeoman Warder, dressed in traditional uniform, led a captivating tour full of chilling tales of prisoners, executions, and royal intrigue.

Students marvelled at the Crown Jewels, sparkling behind thick glass, and imagined the power they represented. Exploring the White Tower, we stood where kings once walked and viewed ancient armour and weaponry. The medieval architecture and imposing walls created a sense of awe and wonder.

Highlights included seeing the legendary ravens, whose presence is said to protect the kingdom, and walking along the battlements with panoramic views of the River Thames. Every corner revealed a new story, from ghostly legends to daring escape attempts.

The Tower of London was more than a historic site—it was a thrilling experience that brought the past vividly to life.

Throughout the day, our students were fantastic, showing our school values of Ambition, Bravery, Kindness.



PE NEWS

SPORTS DAY 2025

What a fantastic day! The sun was shining, spirits were high, and every participant gave their all in a celebration of athleticism, teamwork, and school pride.

HIGHLIGHTS of the DAY

Calum made history by breaking the school record in the Year 10 300m – the only record shattered this year. A phenomenal achievement !

Kindness House dominated the day, winning the Year 7, 8, and 9 competitions, showcasing consistency and teamwork across the board.

Proud House stormed the Year 10 competition, bringing energy and determination to the track.

OVERALL WINNERS

Kindness House – crowned overall champions of Sports Day 2025!



EXTRA CURRICULAR PE

FOOTBALL

YEAR 7 BOYS

The Year 7 team have made a positive start to their Alderbrook football journey, reaching the final of the Solihull Shield. They narrowly missed out on silverware, losing the final 1-0 against John Henry Newman. We are looking forward to what next year will bring for this exciting team.

YEAR 8 BOYS

The Year 8 football team have made significant progress this year. The commitment of the players attending training regularly has helped produce some good performances. They reached the Quarter Finals of the Birmingham Cup and narrowly missed out on the Cup competitions in the Solihull Cup.

YEAR 9 BOYS

The Year 9 team have had a great season playing in the West Midlands, Birmingham and Solihull Cup competitions this year. The team narrowly missed out on reaching the Birmingham Cup Final, losing their semi-final game 1-0 against a strong Kings Norton Boys side. The team reached the final of the Solihull Shield, beating Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst 3-1 in the final, with goals from Cole, Charlie and Oscar.



EXTRA CURRICULAR PE

FOOTBALL

YEAR 10 BOYS

The Year 10 team have shown incredible commitment this year and have been rewarded with their great attendance to training with their achievements this year. After beating Arden 2-0 in the quarter finals of the Birmingham Cup, they faced another strong Kings Norton Boys side in the semi-final of the Birmingham Cup, unfortunately their run in the competition came to an end, with full focus remaining on their Solihull Cup run. The side played Grace Academy in the final of the Solihull Cup, playing at Knighthead Performance Centre – Birmingham City Academy and Women's training venue. The side were comprehensive winners, beating Grace Academy 4-0 in the final with goals from Reiss, Sam, Lucas and Ollie.



EXTRA CURRICULAR PE

FOOTBALL

YEAR 11 BOYS

The Year 11 football team have displayed all of the ABK values throughout their 5 years at Alderbrook. The team should be extremely proud of their dedication and achievements over the years. This year, the team have continued to develop, displaying lots of progress throughout the campaign.

The team reached the semi-finals of the Solihull Cup, losing 3-2 against Tudor Grange Academy Solihull.

Everyone in the PE Department past and present would like to thank all of the students who have represented the school over the 5 years. We wish them well on their next footballing adventures and we look forward to welcoming many of the team back to shape our 6th Form team next year!



EXTRA CURRICULAR PE

FOOTBALL

GIRLS' TEAMS

Our U13 girls team played together for the first time welcoming our new Year 7 students to the team and worked fantastically together throughout their Solihull 6-a-side Satellite tournaments, where they finished 3rd in the Borough. Taylor represented the school as team Captain and demonstrated the key values of Alderbrook to the highest levels, working to motivate the team and show ambition throughout the year. Other fantastic performances were shown by Amaya as goalkeeper and Sophie in defence.

Our U15 girls' team has once again shown the highest levels of commitment and passion for the sport with some outstanding performances throughout the year. Their hard work and determination led them to the finals of the West Midlands Cup, where they were crowned champions against a tough Our Lady and St. Chad's side, winning 7-4.

The team also went on to win the 5-a-side Solihull Satellite tournament which took them on to compete at the County level. Both teams excelled throughout their tournaments, representing the school to the highest of levels and demonstrating determination and resilience which led to both teams remaining undefeated and taking the County titles. Special mention goes to Sophie as team captain who worked tirelessly throughout all fixtures this year, motivating her team and remaining calm under pressure.

We would like to thank all of the students for their commitment to school football this year. Special mention to all the staff who have taken a team this year, taking training, organising fixtures and leading lots of team-talks! Mr Smith, Mr Scott, Mr Tinniswood, Mr Kahlon, Mr Coggan, Mr Corbett and Miss Fogarty.



EXTRA CURRICULAR PE

ROUNDERS

Our Year 8 team represented the school and became Solihull Champions winning the Borough rounders tournament.

The students played fixtures against 6 other schools – being undefeated and showing excellent sportsmanship and upholding the schools values of Ambition, Bravery and Kindness. Excellent bowling throughout the tournament by Ella, some fantastic hitting by Tiana and our overall ‘coaches’ player of the tournament’ went to Chloe for excellent play in every game – performing some superb catches.

Our Year 9 team, who have showed great commitment this season came second in the borough, with a tough final against Tudor Grange. Our students showed excellent attitude and worked well as a team throughout the tournament. We are all determined to come back and win it next year!

Miss Newlands, Miss Fogarty and Mrs Owen are all very proud of the rounders players and their efforts this year. Thank you to teachers for taking the fixtures and supporting rounders practices.



EXTRA CURRICULAR PE

ATHLETICS

INDOOR

A range of students in Years 7 and 8 represented Alderbrook in the Indoor Athletics competition in March at North Solihull Sports Centre.

Throughout the competition, the students demonstrated some real resilience and determination to perform well and work as a team to succeed against some strong schools across the Solihull Borough.

This resulted in our Year 7 and 8 girls teams finishing in 3rd place and receiving their bronze medals, and our Year 8 Boys team finishing in 2nd place receiving silver medals, and just narrowly missing out on the chance to compete at nationals!

SUPER 6

More success for Athletics at Alderbrook across the Super 6 Competitions that took place for the Year 7, 8 and 9 teams in June. Six students from each year group were selected to compete in the 100m, 200m, 800m, long jump, shot put and javelin at Tudor Grange track against a range of talented schools across the Solihull Borough. With some exceptional performances shown by students in all year groups, the Year 7 girls and year 8 boys finished in 2nd place taking the silver medals, and the year 7 boys and year 9 girls finished in 3rd place, receiving the bronze. Well done to all the students involved.

BOROUGH

On 1st July we took 50 pupils ranging from Year 7 to Year 10 to Tudor Grange track to compete in the Solihull Borough Athletics Championships. The students competed in their strongest track or field events to represent Alderbrook in their age group.

We had some excellent performances shown with some personal best times gained too.

Special mentions to our students who placed in the top 3 for their events; Abby, Keeyah, Spencer, Frankie, Henry, Caitlin, Lola, Calum, Archie, Jennah, and our U16 boys relay team.

EXTRA CURRICULAR PE

BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITIONS

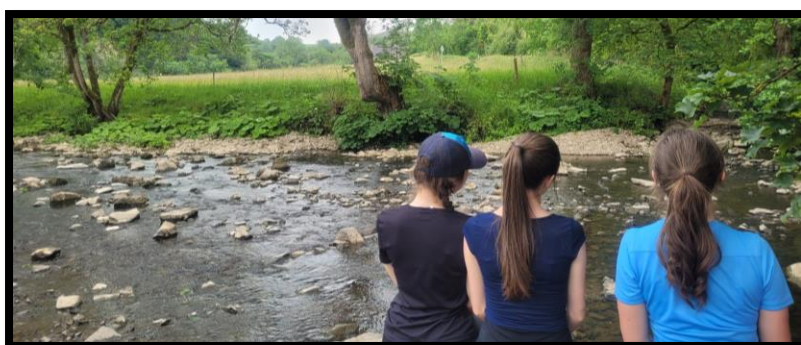
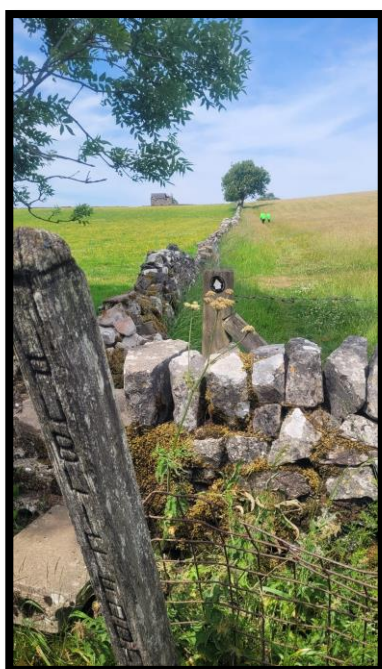
A Tale of Two Weathers

This year's Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expeditions for Year 9 students, led by Mr. Scott and his ever-reliable team; Mr Kahlon, Mrs Reeve and Miss Griffiths offered a true test of resilience, teamwork, and adaptability, thanks to two very contrasting weather conditions.

The practice expedition took place in the Lickey Hills and surrounding areas, with an overnight stay at Blackwell Court. The students faced challenging conditions, with heavy downpours at both the start and end of the journey. Despite the rain, they showed great determination, developing their navigation and campcraft skills in preparation for the assessed expedition.

In stark contrast, the assessed expedition in the Peak District around Tissington and Hulme End Campsite was marked by soaring temperatures. The heat made walking difficult and, at times, uncomfortable. Nevertheless, the students rose to the challenge, completing their routes (albeit slightly slower than planned), cooking their own meals at camp, and even finding the energy for a game of cricket and a kickabout before settling into their tents.

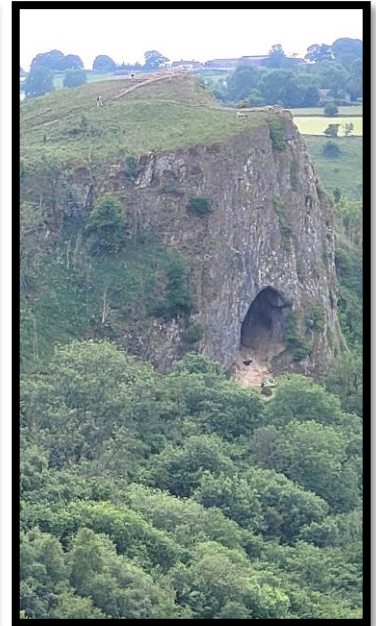
Throughout both expeditions, the students demonstrated Ambition, Bravery and Kindness through their perseverance and teamwork they maintained a positive attitude. Every participant completed the challenge safely and returned home for a well-earned rest and a very early night!



EXTRA CURRICULAR PE

BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITIONS

A Tale of Two Weathers



EXTRA CURRICULAR PE

SPAIN TRIP TO SALOU

This year saw the first Salou sports trip. The students enjoyed relaxing, competing and sightseeing in Spain's cultural capital. The trip started with a visit to Sagrada Familia, Las Ramblas and then finished with an immersive Barcelona FC tour.

On the second day the students had a fantastic day at Caribe Aquatic Park and in the evening the Year 9 football team came out triumphant against a local Spanish side.

The third day saw the students take part in a two-hour football and netball coaching session with the Masterclass coaching team then, in the evening the Year 8 football team were victorious against a local Spanish team.

On the fourth day the students took part in a Masterclass sports tournament against other UK schools. Our Year 8 Footballers came third in their group while our Year 9 footballers narrowly missed out in the final on penalties but were unbeaten throughout.

In Year 8 the players' player was Elliot, coaches' player was Alfie and the Masterclass player of the tournament was Rocco. In year 9, players' player was Charlie, coaches' player was Luke and the players of the tournament were Oscar and Jeffrey

Our Year 8 netball team were crowned champions in their tournament, remaining unbeaten throughout. Our Year 9 Netball team finished strongly against 9 other UK schools, finishing 5th in their group. Players' player was Georgia, player of the tournament was Orla-Rose and the Masterclass player of the tournament was Ridhima.





EXTRA CURRICULAR PE

BIRMINGHAM CITY ACADEMY CAREERS TALK AND PRACTICAL

On Wednesday 12th February, Alderbrook welcomed staff from Birmingham City Academy to collaborate and share best practice.

During the visit the staff from the football club delivered a football coaching session to the Year 10 Football team, where Will Brant – U18 Physical Performance Coach led the warm up, Max Hinds – U18 Performance Analyst filmed the session using a drone and Andy Crabtree – U16 Lead Coach delivered the technical and tactical parts of the session.

After the delivery of the session, the staff were able to share their career journey in an assembly delivered to our Year 11 and Year 12 Sports Studies groups, where students were able to ask questions around careers in the football industry.

Following the presentation, staff from the football club observed lessons across the school, watching best practice to enhance their understanding of teaching and learning.

We look forward to further opportunities for staff from the football club to deliver more sessions to Alderbrook students in the future!



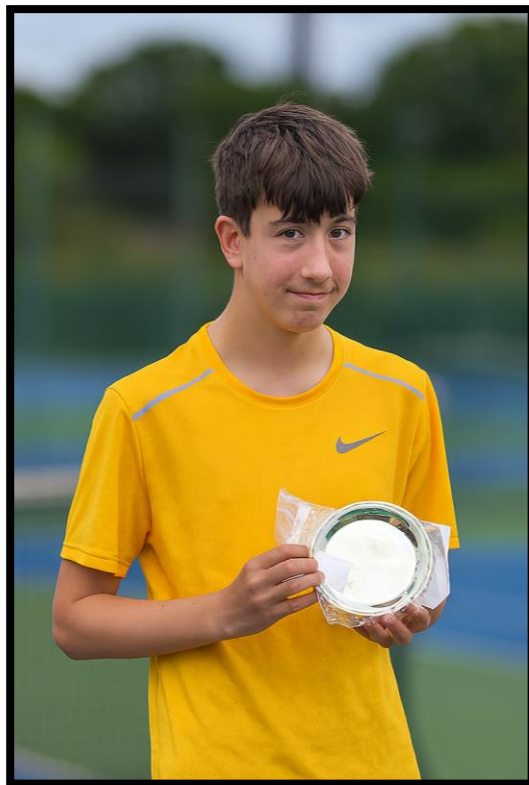
EXTRA CURRICULAR PE

TENNIS

Alfie triumphed at the Warwickshire County Finals of the *Play Your Way to Wimbledon* competition - a prestigious national tournament for U14 players held across the UK.

After progressing through his local club stage, Alfie showcased incredible skill and determination to emerge victorious at the county level. His win means he has earned a coveted spot in the National Finals at Wimbledon this August.

Let's all cheer Alfie on as he prepares to compete on the iconic grass courts of Wimbledon. What an amazing achievement and an unforgettable summer ahead.



TRAMPOLINING & TUMBLING

We're delighted to share that both Jack and William recently competed in the National Finals for their respective sports—Trampolining and Tumbling.

William delivered an exceptional performance, tumbling with incredible precision and achieving personal bests and perfect landings. He went on to win the Regional 1 under-13 category, making him a National Champion across the UK. He has trained tirelessly, and we couldn't be prouder of his achievement.

Jack competed at Regional 2 level in the 13–14 age group, performing some of the best routines of his career and achieving a personal best. He finished in 6th place nationally; an outstanding result at such a high level of competition.

We are incredibly proud of both boys—not just for qualifying for the finals, but for their dedication, sportsmanship and achievements.

A National Champion and a Top 6 finisher in the UK—truly amazing!

EXTRA CURRICULAR PE

GYMNASTICS

AMY SHINES at the IGA ARTHUR FALLE INVITATIONAL

We are proud to share that Amy represented Fantasy Gymnastics at the prestigious IGA Arthur Falle Invitational Gymnastics Competition May 2025, at Fort Regent, Jersey.

This annual event, hosted by the Independent Gymnastics Association (IGA), is a celebrated highlight on the national gymnastics calendar. It brings together talented young athletes from across the country for a day of spirited competition and camaraderie.

What made this year's event truly special was the opportunity for participants to compete on the official equipment used at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

For Amy and her fellow gymnasts, this was more than just a competition, it was a chance to step into the shoes of their sporting heroes and experience the thrill of elite-level gymnastics.



The event was an unforgettable experience, inspiring all involved and reinforcing their passion for the sport.

We are incredibly proud of Amy's dedication and performance, and we look forward to seeing her continue to grow and achieve in her gymnastics journey.

Well done, Amy !!

EXTRA CURRICULAR PE

SHOWJUMPING

OLIVIA TRIUMPHS at BRITISH SHOWJUMPING SCHOOLS EVENT

We’re thrilled to celebrate Olivia, who proudly represented Alderbrook School at a recent British Show Jumping Schools competition and delivered an outstanding performance!

Olivia took 1st place in both the 60cm and 70cm classes, showcasing not only her skill but also her determination and poise under pressure. What makes her achievement even more remarkable is that she was the youngest competitor riding the smallest pony in the event!

With careful planning and confident execution, Olivia rode her course with precision and flair, impressing judges and spectators alike. Her success is a testament to her hard work, passion for the sport, and the strong bond she shares with her pony.

Congratulations, Olivia! Your Alderbrook community is incredibly proud of you!



SCHOOLS 70CM				
PLACE	POINTS	RIDER NAME	HORSE NAME	INSTITUTION
1	24	Olivia	BIRKINBROOK DIPLOMAT	Alderbrook School
2	18	Rykias	NEMESIS	The Secret Garden School
3=	15	Claudia	SIXPENCE POSH TOTTY	Wooler first school
3=	15	Luchia	ARDLEA PERRY ONE	The Dixie Grammar School
3=	15	Perdita	BIT OF AN EFFORT	Mark First Church of England Academy
3=	15	Rosie	THISTLEDOWN GREGORYS GIRL	The Dixie Grammar School
3=	15	Theo	ASBY MILLS TURBO	Hugh Sexey Middle School
8=	13	Grace	MONTRUTH MISSION	The Dixie Grammar

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION !

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

In December, over 60 students from across all year groups came together to stage an exciting whole school production of 'High School Musical' in Malley Hall. The show featured a talented cast of performers, an incredible student orchestra, and a hardworking backstage crew, all contributing to bring this energetic musical to life.

For the first time, we transformed Malley Hall with traverse seating, allowing the audience to feel completely immersed in the story, echoing locations like the school auditorium, classrooms, and even the basketball court. The production was a fantastic cross-department collaboration, with the Art Department designing vibrant set pieces and props, and the Dance Department supporting the cast with exciting choreography — including some impressive cheerleading tricks that wowed the audience.

We even had members of the school's basketball team join the cast as Troy's Wildcats, adding authentic skills to the court scenes and bringing East High to life. The dedication and enthusiasm from every student involved — whether performing, backstage, in the orchestra, or representing the Wildcats — was outstanding. Their commitment, creativity, and teamwork shone through, resulting in a high-energy, feel-good production packed with fun, talent, and the message that "we're all in this together".







OPERATION MINCEMEAT

The Drama Department took a trip to London on 22nd October to see the smash hit show 'Operation Mincemeat' at the Fortune Theatre in London's West End. We took 45 students from years 10-12. The day started in a workshop with an assistant director who was working on the show. This explored the central themes of the show, the narrative and the structure. It comprised some improvised games, some polished improvised performances in groups and an opportunity for braver students to perform a monologue written by students during the workshop. The workshop leader commented on the maturity and creativity of our students.

Then, after a short lunch in a park near the theatre, we watched the show. This was a classic example of a successful transfer from the Edinburgh Fringe, where Operation Mincemeat was awarded a fringe first. The show tells the true story of a British spy operation to make Hitler's troops march away from Sicily in the second world war. Performed by a cast of six, each playing multiple roles, it was skilfully delivered in a comedic and musical style. Students had a fabulous experience of culture in the capital, and we were very proud of their behaviour and creativity in an intense day.



NT CONNECTIONS

We are proud to share that this year marks our school's fourth time taking part in the prestigious National Theatre Connections Festival — a nationwide celebration of youth theatre, where young people from across the UK perform specially commissioned new plays.

Our Year 10 and Year 12 students performed 'Saba's Swim' by Danusia Samal — a powerful story about friendship, change, and finding your place in the world. The play follows a group of friends who, on prom night, set out to track down Saba — their friend who mysteriously walked out of her GCSE mocks seven months earlier. But when they finally reunite, they discover that both Saba, and the way that she sees the world, have changed forever.

Students performed 'Saba's Swim' at Alderbrook School in February, before taking the production to the Royal & Derngate Theatre in Northampton to perform as part of the official NT Connections Festival, alongside schools and youth theatres from across the region. They also took part in a 'devising workshop' and had the chance to watch other groups perform.

Alongside the cast, Year 12 students on our enrichment programme supported the production through design and technical theatre roles, including operating the lighting for both performances — an incredible opportunity to gain real-world experience in a professional theatre.

Congratulations to all students involved for their dedication, talent, and teamwork both on and off stage.





A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

This July, the Drama Department produced 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare.

We've really enjoyed helping our students make their own connections with this ancient text. It's no easy task learning to speak Shakespeare's flowing verse, but from the very first audition, we were amazed by how naturally they engaged with the language, finding rhythm and comedy with ease. I believe this is one of Shakespeare's most accessible plays, full of the good humour young people connect with.

In Alderbrook's Performing Arts Department, we love to innovate, and this production has pushed the boat out in several ways. This is the first full-length Shakespeare to be performed at the school, the first outdoor production of a full-length play, and the first time we've handed over costume design and marketing to a dedicated team of students.

We are incredibly proud of their hard work and creativity.



SOLIHULL STREET DANCE FESTIVAL

Alderbrook School hosted the Solihull Street Dance Festival for the 3rd time running in May. We welcomed nine other secondary schools from across the borough and our Year 9 & 10 NRG students came second in their age category.

We were very proud of their ambition and commitment to Dance and the NRG company. We look forward to seeing more of their performances next year.

Dancers included: Casey, Ginger, Izzy, Suzie, Maci-Jade, Beatrix, Poppy, Mikaela, Mia, Ava & Angela.



AND JULIET

We took to our A-level Dance students to The Hippodrome to watch 'And Juliet'. The dancers used the professional piece for their exam and ALL achieved a grade A for their performance from the exam board!

Congratulations, Ruby, Liliana, Amelie, Kylah and Tallulah.



SUMMER CONCERT

A lovely way to finish the year was the Summer Concert that was held in June.

All year groups were represented and featured a range of groups that rehearse throughout the year. From Choir and Orchestra to Year 7 bands through to Year 10 bands amongst many solos.

A huge thank you to all students from Miss Rafferty and Miss Saunders, your bravery and ambition at these concerts never cease to amaze us!

We look forward to welcoming everyone back next year to extra-curricular Music.



KINDNESS IN ACTION

ABK COMMUNITY EVENTS

We have had a busy year at Alderbrook School working on community cohesion.

During October, students learnt about Food Banks and the important work they do to help the local community. All staff and students then came together to donate essential toiletries and food items for the Clifton Road Food Bank in Birmingham City Centre.

Clifton Road Food Bank opens its doors every Wednesday to all those in need and provides essential items to help them get through the week. On average, over 100 people visit the Food Bank every week.

The Ambition House Captains visited the Food Bank to donate the items in November. They were given the opportunity to unpack and organise the Food Bank ready for the public to use. Thank you to all the families who supported us with this event.



In November, we organised our very first Interfaith Exhibition, as part of National Interfaith Week. Staff brought in items from their Worldviews, to share with students. It was a huge success with students being able to learn more about their teachers as well as gaining an insight into some of the major world views. We also created an interfaith tree, where all staff and students were invited to print a thumbprint onto a tree to show that despite our differences, we are all equal.



In December, students came together to spread festive cheer to the residents at Blyth Rose Dementia Care Home and Blossomfield Care Home.

Over 200 cards were written to the residents and delivered on Saturday 7th December, where Sixth Form students spent the afternoon singing Christmas Carols at the care home.

A truly wonderful day!



In February, we held a Toothbrush and Toothpaste campaign on behalf of the Children's Storehouse in Solihull, encouraging students to bring in new toothbrushes and toothpaste for families escaping domestic abuse and families suffering from poverty.



In March as part of World Book Day, Y10 students visited residents at the Blyth Rose Dementia Care Home and Blossomfield Care Home to read to them. This was a very humbling experience for our students and they thoroughly enjoyed building relationships with the residents.

In May, we visited the Care Home again but this time with our Year 7 students. This was a great opportunity for them to build on their reading skills and have some lovely conversations with the residents.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ALDERBROOK ...

PARENTS' QUIZ

We held our second Parents' Quiz in July, which was well attended, enjoyed by all and won by 'The Old Romantics' - well deserved and we hope to see them defending their title at the next quiz and welcoming even more teams along!

The event raised £500 for the Marjorie Willis Fund which helps to support the school with purchases that provide a whole range of activities and curriculum 'extras' in school.

Very well done to everyone and thank you for making this such a successful night!

EQUALITY DIVERSITY & INCLUSION UPDATE

We have had an amazing year developing our whole-school approach to EDI and inclusivity. Students have benefitted from a wide range of assemblies and speakers, both from our own students and our talented staff giving assemblies about their identities, faiths and lives - and from a parent too. This has included talks from 'Just Like Us' about the LGBTQ+ community, and from Rory Chu about the Hong Kong community.

We have also been conducting student voice groups and surveys in order to hear from our own student community about what they need. Students told us that they would like clearer ways to report discrimination, we have created a QR code to go into all students' planners so that students can easily report things, even from home. To further this, we have also created a new Alderbrook 'Equity Charter' as a set of promises to our whole school community for what we stand for.

Additionally, students would like more 'common interest' groups to gather with like-minded other students. Therefore, we have supported Hoi, one of our very own year 12 students, to establish a 'Pride and Allyship Club'! This has led to lots of celebrations for Pride Month, including assemblies, lessons, resources, and a charity bakesale!

'The Pride Club will return after the summer holidays and everyone is welcome to join us. We hope to see you there!'

It has been a very exciting year, full of lots of celebrations and learning about all of our many Alderbrook identities. We look forward to what the next year will hold!

ACTION ON SMARTPHONES

Alderbrook hit the news in January as it spearheaded a campaign to reduce the negative impacts of smartphones on children and young people in Solihull.

The school featured in online articles and on the local news as the BBC covered our daily voluntary hand-in of smartphones for Year 7s.

On 28th January, Alderbrook hosted a Solihull-wide parent event for parents of school-aged children to learn more about the dangers of smartphones and social media. The event included a panel of national experts and it has triggered similar events in other schools across the borough. We are now working on community-wide messaging that we hope will be used by all schools in Solihull.

From September, all Year 7s and Year 8s at Alderbrook will have to hand in their phones every morning. They will be stored securely during the day and returned to the students at the end of the day.

Delay buying children smartphones, schools urge



Mila is among Year 7 students choosing to put her device in a mobile phone storage locker provided by Alderbrook School

HOUSE EVENTS 24/25

As the summer holidays are nearly upon us we can look back at all the exciting competitions and events we have enjoyed within the Alderbrook House System. For the 2024/2025 school year, we were thrilled to continue building on the success of our Houses, fostering an even stronger sense of community, teamwork, and healthy competition amongst all our students.

Our House System is designed to create smaller, supportive communities within the larger school environment. Each student and staff member belongs to one of our four Houses: Ambition, Bravery, Kindness and Proud. Throughout the year, students had countless opportunities to earn points for their House, contributing to their collective success and showing off their talents.

This past year had a packed calendar of House events! Academic challenges (University Challenge, Spelling Bee, Race to the Top), sporting competitions (football, netball, dodgeball, rounders, sports day), creative arts showcases (Antarctic flag, Christmas jumper competition, Talent Show) and charity fundraisers (food bank, toothbrush appeal) - there was something for everyone. These events weren't just about winning; they were about encouraging participation, developing leadership skills, and building lasting friendships across different social groups.

Sadly, there is not room to highlight every success from the 24/25 House Calendar, but some notable highlights from the year include some exceptional bakes from Penny (Kindness House) 1st, Niamh (Proud House) 2nd and Guljar (Kindness House) 3rd in the Alderbrook Bake Off. In October, the school field was filled with hundreds of pupils taking part in the netball and football competitions. The Antarctic Flag competition saw some beautiful entries, with the winning entry coming from Kindness House. As always, the Spelling Bee did not disappoint, and there were many excellent performances across all the houses from year 7 through to year 9. Race to the Top was an entertaining event for the 2nd year running, with students completing solo and group challenges for points, with many House Points being awarded across KS3.

As always, we encourage all students to get actively involved in the Alderbrook House System, whether you are a budding athlete, a creative genius, a natural leader, or just keen to have fun, there is a place for you to shine for your House. Every point earned contributes to the overall success of your House.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to our Heads of House (staff) and House Captains (students) who have helped to make this year such a great success, encouraging lots of positive participation and supporting all of those involved. We can't wait to do it all again next year!

BRAIDS ASSEMBLIES

As is tradition, we are hosting our annual Braids Awards Assemblies in the last week of the school year. These assemblies give staff the opportunity to reward specific students for their progress in their subject areas. Staff are allowed to nominate up to 12 students within their subject area and those who are awarded a braid in a particular subject will be entitled to wear that braid for the entirety of their time at Alderbrook.

As well as subject braids, there are also braids awarded for a variety of other reasons: Reading, Leadership, House Events, Sports, Progress, Commitment, as well as our coveted Trustees' braid to name but a few.

We make every effort to recognise as many students as possible over the 4-year Braid Assembly cycle and we very much work towards all students being rewarded over this time.

We congratulate this years' recipients and hope that they wear their new braids with pride!



PRESENTATION EVENINGS

We have a wonderful culture of celebrating success here at Alderbrook, each year hosting a formal Presentation Evening recognising our students for the hard work and determination they have shown over the past year. The evenings are a highlight on the school calendar where in addition to awards being received from students they hear from staff and guest speakers and are able to enjoy performances from our own Performing Arts department.

We have been fortunate to welcome some amazing guest speakers this year who each offered tales of their own experiences and demonstrated how resilience and persistence can reap positive rewards including Councillor Esther Rai

We are grateful, as always, to parents and carers for supporting their child and attending the evening. We look forward to celebrating more students next academic year.



HOUSE TALENT SHOW

February brought our very first House Talent Show, and goodness there was talent by the bucket full!

Students auditioned to their Heads of House, who then had the difficult task to shortlist before performing in front of a live audience, with live voting to decide the winning act.

The event was a success for Kindness House, whose winner was in Year 9, dazzling the audience with a beautiful voice she has been hiding away!

The event was a massive success, with students across the year groups coming to support. Does your child have what it takes to be House Talent Winner of 2026?

Keep a look out for updates in the new academic year...



WORLD BOOK DAY

In March, we extended the joy of World Book Day into a month-long celebration of reading! Throughout the entire month, there were a range of activities to immerse students into the world of books. From form time activities to weekly competitions, including book cover redesigns, short story writing, and a book-themed quiz, March was all about igniting student's creativity and building a love for literature. Adding to the fun, we also held a staff costume contest, which the PE department won !



WORLD BOOK DAY

Our World Book Day celebration culminated with a visit from the phenomenal Jennifer Killick, best-selling author of the spine-tingling 'Dread Wood' and 'Crater Lake' series, who spoke to Year 7. Students were transported into Jennifer's brand-new world of her 'Serial Chiller' series, dissecting the chilling characters and atmospheric settings that make her books so captivating.

Students, armed with questions honed in their English lessons, had the unique opportunity to delve into the mind of a writer. They asked about the journey to becoming an author, the challenges of writer's block, and the secrets to finding that elusive spark of motivation. Jennifer's candid and insightful answers left them buzzing with inspiration, proving that stories have the power to ignite imagination and ambition.



ABK COMBINED CADET FORCE

This academic year has seen the start of Alderbrook's very first Combined Cadet Force. Our first year has been anything but a quiet one, with our cadets getting involved in first aid, drill and turn-out practice, using range cards, learning duties of a sentry, swatting up on their map reading skills and embarking on residentials and weapons training.

One of the things that our Basic Cadets most enjoyed this year was spending a weekend away on residential learning how to put up bashers (a square piece of tent material). They competed against each other to put them up in record time and then in their pairs they camouflaged them and slept out under the basher with just a sleeping bag and roll mat as their bed. The cadets showed so much courage and commitment over the weekend. To top it all off they successfully passed their 1-star field craft by sleeping over night!

Five of our recruits also went on to undertake their Weapons Handling Training and have successfully passed their assessment! They had to show that they are capable of handling weapons safely and can take apart and clean a weapon without damaging it. Passing this assessment has, gained them a place at CCF Summer Camp.

We look forward to welcoming in a new cohort of cadets in year 8 in September.



LIFE READY DAY

ABK's third LIFE READY day of the school year included activities for years 7, 8, 9 and 10 whilst our year 12 students were completing their work experience placements.

The focus for year 7 was BEING THE BEST VERSION OF THEMSELVES. The students went through the day in their form groups and worked through sessions on EMPATHY, BANTER, BULLYING, TEAMWORK and REVIEWING their first year at ABK.

Year 8 and year 9 students were encouraged to think about CULTURE. They were led through sessions that covered LANGUAGE, MAPS, ART, WORLD MUSIC, DESIGN and SPORTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

Year 10 took part in a very busy CAREERS DAY in which they applied for and were interviewed for a job. They also had the opportunity to write a CV and these can be accessed at home on the UNIFROG platform. They also visited a Careers Fair which included representation from a range of post-16 providers, alongside a range of employers that operate locally, nationally and internationally. The feedback from the volunteers that supported us on this day was incredibly positive and complimentary of our Year 10 students and we were very proud of the way in which they represented themselves.

LIFE READY DAYS rely on the involvement of everybody in Alderbrook – thanks for making the day run so smoothly.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

On 16th June, we proudly sent our Year 10 students out on work experience placements — the first time in several years that we've been able to offer this invaluable opportunity. For a full week, our students stepped out of the classroom and into the world of work, and they did us proud every step of the way. From council offices to mechanic workshops, retail to childcare, our young people brought energy, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn that did not go unnoticed. Many employers commented on how mature, hard-working, and eager the students were — a testament to their character and the high standards we strive for every day in school. Some students impressed so much that they've already secured part-time jobs for the coming year. Others have left their placements feeling inspired and exploring apprenticeship routes in the industries they experienced first-hand.

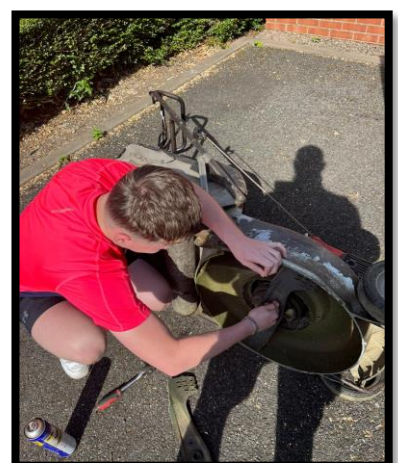
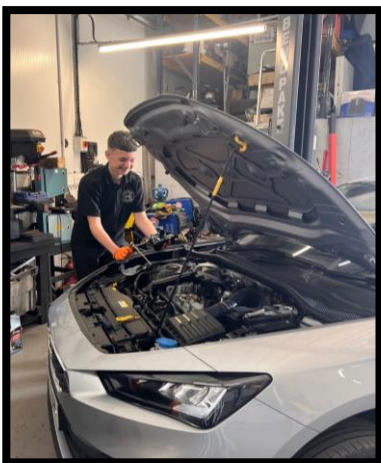
We are very proud of our students and hope they found the experience not only rewarding, but also an amazing opportunity to build networks, gain insight into potential careers, and even decide what paths they may or may not wish to pursue in the future.

This week wasn't just about gaining workplace skills — it was a chance for students to grow in confidence, learn about professional expectations, and see how their studies connect with real-life careers.

A huge thank you to the many businesses and organisations who welcomed our students and supported them throughout the week. The glowing feedback we've received reflects just how well our students represented themselves and the school.

We'd also like to thank Network Rail, Solihull MBC and University of Birmingham for joining us in school and delivering work-related workshops to some of our students who remained in school.

Work experience is back — and what a fantastic return it's been!



GREAT ABK BAKE OFF

STUDENTS

In October students from years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a student bake-off. Students had 3 hours to make a signature bake. Students competed for house points. With a tough set of judges, the winners of the ABK Bake-off are:

1st place - Penny - KINDNESS

2nd place - Niamh - PROUD

3rd place- Guljar - KINDNESS

STAFF

In July staff had their own chance to take part. Staff were asked to bring in their signature bake and the judging was tough.



ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

We reach the end of another industrious year in Art, Design and Photography. We will be celebrating our students' creativity once those results are out. Our students are always pushing the boundaries and we have much to celebrate whenever we get the opportunity.

Ms Stevens and Mrs Myatt welcomed our ex-year 13 students into school to inspire our current A Level students. A number from last year's cohort went off to study Art based degrees in Graphics, Photography and Media. It was lovely to catch up with them as they showcased the next stages for potential careers in Arts.

STAFF WELL-BEING

Ms Saimbi and Ms Stevens worked on designing wellbeing activities for the staff at ABK which was both enriching and entertaining. Porcelain festive decorations and a lino print making activity were run after school in sessions to engage staff creativity and wellbeing.

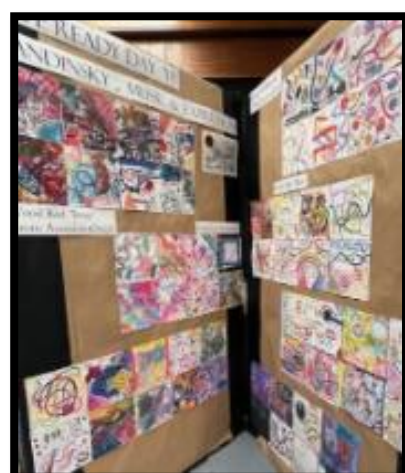


ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

We have enjoyed planning a number of Art activities as part of Life Ready Days from year 9 mindfulness and OP Art to the year 10 collaborative craft activity; making poppies for the new Remembrance display. A wreath of ceramic poppies individually made by students and glazed for a more permanent reminder of key dates in British History. VE day more recently as such an example. We are hoping it will be installed ready for September.

Year 8 re-engaged their senses with music and art whilst relating to artist Kandinsky as inspiration on their recent Life Ready Day.

Ms Logan joined the team this year as an Art teacher and ran a 3D after school Art club that was well attended by year 7 students. They generated mythical creatures and made them in clay. We are proud as a department to still follow a clay process as part of our curriculum.



ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

LONDON TATE TRIP

At the start of the year our trip to the capital helped support GCSE students with exam preparation. We visited the Tate Gallery and specifically the Electric Dreams exhibition. The play of sound and light on surfaces was inspiring and entertaining as some exhibits invited interactions; beams of light generating a journey that could be interrupted and intersected.



ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

STRATFORD BUTTERFLY FARM

Year 12 Photographers enjoyed an enrichment outing to Stratford Butterfly Farm, where they explored images related to ‘decay’. Work was submitted from all students for the Solihull CEP Core Schools exhibition and Nikki then celebrated success as she was highly commended for her macro caterpillar image.



ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

COMPETITION WINNERS

Touchwood & Rotary schools Photography Competition 2025 'Wonderful Water' yielded success for our students across all age groups and Harrison in year 12 was the Senior winner and Elliot in year 7 was chosen as Intermediate winner. There were a number of highly commended students also; Holly, Zeah, Erin and Jessica. As the judges commented, "all entrants were of a high standard and our task wasn't easy".



Touchwood & Rotary also run other competitions for local schools to participate in. I am delighted to say we had success with the Art competition also on the theme Wonderful Water.

Lucy in year 8 was highly commended for her painting. Lucy has also been recognised for her success with the Mayor's competition for a colourful artwork to be displayed in the Children's Services department.

Well done, Lucy.

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

COMPETITION WINNERS

We then had further success with the Solihull Society of Arts who award students for achievement. Cyan in year 8 and Alexi year 9 for their Art works. Solihull Society of Arts have maintained links with ABK. The most recent one was a workshop run by Ms Saimbi.



HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Students have participated in Mr Farmer's House competitions during the year :

- Frankenstein & Goblins
- Easter decorations
- Festive Season designs

There have been a number of rewards and plenty of House Points for entries.



ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

THANK YOUs

Thanks to the team for their continued hard work, dedication and consistency.

Mrs Foden, aka Little Miss Magic assists us in so many ways as our invaluable technician she puts the 'icing on the department cake' with our displays and ensuring we have what we need to achieve what we do with students.

We wish Ms Saimbi well as she departs during the Autumn term for maternity leave and the new adventures that brings and welcome Mr Farmer to a full-time position in her absence.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Throughout the year, our language students have demonstrated remarkable dedication, enthusiasm, and progress. From mastering grammar and vocabulary to developing cultural awareness and communication skills, our students have shown a deep commitment to language learning and our aim is to inspire them beyond the classroom.

MINGALABA – teaching and promoting languages through football

The Year 9 students took part in an inspirational workshop run by Mingalaba. One important message came from it: whether you're interested in pursuing a career in international business, diplomacy, or education, language skills will give you a competitive edge; studying languages not only enhances your communication skills but also broadens your cultural understanding, fosters empathy, and opens doors to new opportunities.

SPELLING BEES – a celebration of linguistic skills

The French and Spanish departments recently hosted thrilling Year 7 Spelling Bees, showcasing students' linguistic prowess and cultural knowledge. The competitions were fierce, with participants demonstrating impressive spelling skills and vocabulary mastery.

The French Spelling Bee challenged students to spell complex words, including those with accents and nuanced pronunciation. The Spanish spelling bee was equally competitive, with students demonstrating their mastery of Spanish vocabulary. Students showcased their knowledge of French and Spanish vocabulary and syntax, impressing Miss Oliver and Miss Szabo with their accuracy and confidence. The Spanish competition was so exciting and challenging, making it very hard for Miss Szabo to select a winner; we had three! Both competitions highlighted the students' dedication to language learning and their ability to apply linguistic skills in a fun and competitive setting.

The Spelling Bees reinforced the importance of language learning, demonstrating how it can enhance cognitive and communication abilities.

By participating in these events, students developed their language skills, built confidence, and gained a deeper appreciation for the French and Spanish languages. We are proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing them continue to grow and develop their language skills.

As they move forward, we encourage our students to continue exploring languages and cultures. We are excited about our upcoming trip to Seville which will take place in May 2026, and we would like to thank our parents for supporting this trip.

Remember that language learning is a lifelong process, and the more you practise and immerse yourself in languages, the more proficient you'll become.

AND GOODBYE TO OUR LEAVERS...

ABK SIXTH FORM

SILLY SPORTS DAY

Sixth Formers held their annual Silly Sports Day in the last week of term and enjoyed all activities from sack races to tug-of-war.

The winning Form enjoyed a brunch as their prize !

SUMMER BALL

On Friday, Year 12 celebrated in style at the Summer Ball held at The Limes. It was an unforgettable evening filled with laughter, dancing, and great company.

Everyone looked stunning, and the atmosphere was full of excitement and joy as students enjoyed a night to remember. A perfect way to mark the end of the term!



ABK PROM 2025

On Wednesday 25th June 2025 our Class of '25 descended upon Hogarths Hotel, arriving in a brilliant array of chariots, wearing their gorgeous gowns and sleek suits for a final night of celebration.

Our senior students presented staff and students with awards, formal and fun photographs were taken and The Alderbrook Prom King and Queen were announced.

It was lovely to have so many Alderbrook staff in attendance to celebrate with the students one last time.

The rest of the night was spent singing, dancing, making memories and spending time together.

A wonderful night celebrating a wonderful year group, Class of '25 you did Alderbrook proud.



NEWS FROM OUR SEND TEAM

BLOSSOMFIELD CARE HOME

Year 9 Girls Group came together with the Sixth form volunteers to showcase our talents to the residents by singing much loved Christmas Carols selected by our lovely sixth formers. Each person sang their hearts out to provide moments of joy and it didn't end there! Freya performed an Irish jig that was world class standard, Alex introduced the residents to contemporary dance and Ben performed magic which brought the biggest of smiles.

The residents that gathered enjoyed the show but also the time spent with them and invited us back for Easter!



EASTER CRAFT

Keeping to our promises and fostering connections with the residents, we arrived at the care home with Easter Craft. Working alongside the residents, we created a centre piece for the reception area. While we crafted, we listened to stories of childhood, friendships and countries travelled.

The Alderbrook young people that came brightened up the space with their craft and conversation and we were incredibly proud of them.



BINGO & KARAOKE

Celebrating another school year gone by, we visited the residents treating them to a game of bingo. The students played bingo alongside each resident and lots of fun was had!

We finished with a few karaoke songs. The residents laughed, sung and danced with them and thanked them for the time that we shared.

Thanks for having us, Blossomfield Care Home!



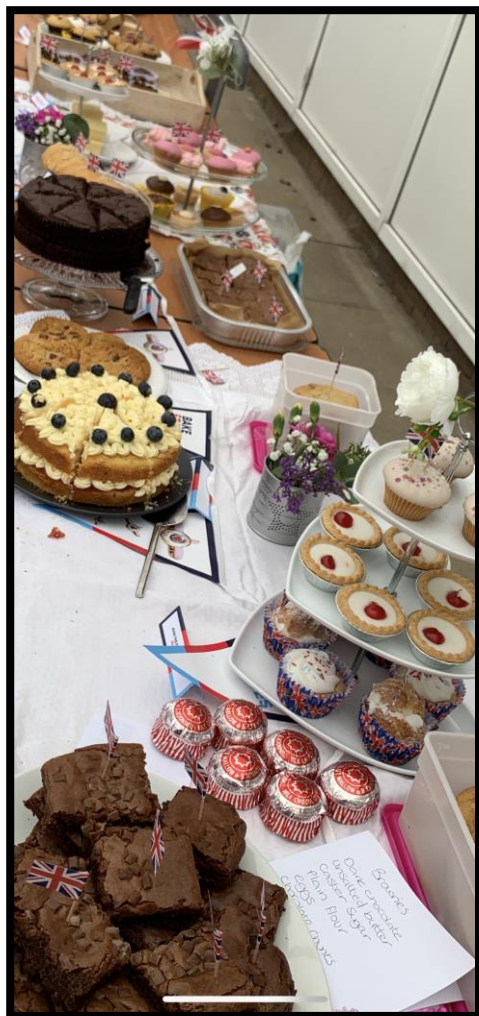
COSY COPE CAFÉ – VE DAY

The year 10 COPE team organised a wonderful café in the Quad at Malley. The team's aim was to bring as many people together to raise funds for "Help for Heroes" but also to raise awareness of VE Day.

The day was in the details; the 1940s playlist, fresh flowers on the tables, homemade cakes, a tombola stand, bunting and excellent customer service.

The year 7 craft club made beautiful decorations and the year 9 girls group helped set everything up! It was a huge success raising £230 for an important cause. The student development team are incredibly proud of every one of our students that participated to support the COPE team - they created a wonderful community occasion.

A special mention to all the staff that visited and contributed to the day, it was wonderful to show what we can achieve when we all work together.



MAYORAL MEETING

We attended the Council House in January for Solihull's Mental Health Event and we met Madam Mayor.

Student development representatives attended workshops to find out more about SEND and mental health; looking after ourselves and how to support friends.

The workshops were delivered by professionals and our young people were excellent ambassadors of Alderbrook, engaging with discussion and sharing their perspectives to shape future projects.



PODCASTS – voices of neurodiversity

As part of our project work to empower our young people, we are working with the Council's local offer to record podcasts that helps others. We are extremely proud of the individuals that have shared their stories, had their voices heard and provided recommendations that may help others with their journey of embracing our neurodivergent brains.

Podcasts are available to view on the Solihull Council Website under Information for children and young people. This is a student-led project and if your child would like to get involved, pop up to Student Development to find out more!



IN THE WILD – Happy Confident Kids

A year 7 and year 8 group ventured outdoors to learn more about how to support their own wellbeing as well as experience the calm of being out in nature.

They problem solved, worked together in groups, practised breathing techniques and embraced the 'here and the now'.

These moments helped our young people to sit still and encourage more time outdoors.

There are free family events happening in our local area, exploring the canals :

Nature Connection Events: <https://happyconfidentkids.com/canal-river-trust/>



FOOTBALL

Our year 9 SEND football team travelled to Birmingham City's West Hills Football training ground to play local teams. This was a tournament based on the values of honesty, respect and teamwork.

Our team worked well together; encouraging one another as well as scoring many goals!

The team were all awarded a medal for their participation in the event and we were fortunate to bring along two emerging sports leaders, many thanks to Orla Rose and Bella for refereeing all four games, they also ran the pre-game training and were excellent in their delivery, enthusiasm and encouragement!

A special thank you to guest coach Ben Turner who came in to provide a professional training session to help prepare the students.



DODGEBALL

To celebrate the wonderful achievement of transitioning from primary to secondary school Ollie, Kayno, Sofia Rose, Zachary, Noah and Lainey travelled to Arden School to take part in a “glow in the dark” Dodgeball tournament.

The young people have excelled at Alderbrook and we could not be prouder of them. They are an inspiration to others that may find school life to be challenging.

We laughed with and played dodgeball against other schools in the borough. They demonstrated excellent teamwork and honesty and were also happy to play in teams with other year 7s from different schools. Well done!



PANATHLON

We attended the Panathlon event at Langley School. We had a lovely afternoon working together on the different sporting activities on offer. We were particularly good at the skittles bowling, completing more rounds of this than any other school. We also achieved the best score of the bean bag challenge!

We had a wonderful afternoon!



SUPPORTING ABK with MARJORIE WILLIS

The Marjorie Willis Educational Foundation is a registered charity, that has been supporting the students at Alderbrook School for over 50 years. This is done by raising funds, awarding grants and providing items that are not provided by normal school funding.

SIGN UP with 'GIVE AS YOU LIVE'

'Give As You Live' is the free and easy way to raise money for Marjorie Willis when you shop online with 6,000+ stores.

Simply sign up and start shopping to make a difference for Marjorie Willis!

<https://mwef.org.uk/>

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/marjorie-willis>



WISHING YOU ALL A RESTFUL SUMMER BREAK