

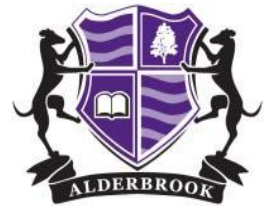
Alderbrook School

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10 October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

As we move towards October half term, I must congratulate our students on how well they have settled back into their studies and routines at school. Our years 7 & 8 are now very well practiced at handing their phones in at the start of each day, and we are proud of their mature attitude towards this. Thank you for your support with the many school events that have taken place this new academic year including Key Stage 5 Presentation Evening and the two reward trips that this week went to Harry Potter Studios and Drayton Manor. A special mention to all of the students who helped out on Open Evening and the Open Mornings; we have received some lovely emails from visitors and it is clear they were all wonderful ambassadors for the school and Sixth Form.

Safeguarding newsletter

Please find the next edition of the safeguarding newsletter [here](#) produced in partnership with The Enlightened Parent, which is full of very helpful and topical guidance and support. Amongst other advice, this issue focuses on the risks of vaping and Child Criminal Exploitation.

Fire Alarms

Since the start of September the school fire alarm has been triggered four times. As any sounding of the alarm is so disruptive to the school day, and can be very upsetting for some students, I would not be surprised if your children have mentioned this to you, and I want to give you an explanation. We had a planned fire drill as we do at the start of every school year, and then on two occasions the alarm has been triggered by a faulty sensor in a staff toilet. Whilst we were assured that this had been corrected after the first fault, today it has unfortunately happened again and we are working with an external contractor to correct this fault urgently. On one occasion the alarm was triggered maliciously by a student. When this happens, we use the most serious sanctions available and contact the police, as this is a criminal offence. We know our students deserve to learn free from disruption so please be reassured that we take any triggering of the fire alarm extremely seriously.

Understanding Your Child

Please find information [here](#) of a group run at Widney Juniors by Solihull College & University Centre. This group offers parents and carers the opportunity to gain parenting advice, learn how children develop and will give further understanding on the reasons behind their child's behaviour. The group runs on Thursdays between 9.30 -11.30am up to 18th December 2025, excluding October half term.

Free School Meals

A reminder of allowances and other information for those children who are eligible for FSM:



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- A £2.60 allowance for free school meals is issued daily, to be used at lunchtime only.
- Purchases made at lunchtime more than the allowance must be funded by parents/carers by adding money to your child's ParentPay account.
- Purchases made before school or at breaktime must be funded by parents/carers by adding money to your child's Parent Pay account.
- Unspent lunchtime FSM allowance cannot be carried over to the next day.
- ParentPay only shows the money that you have paid into your child's account, and the purchases that have been paid for with that money. Any purchases made using the daily FSM allowance do not, therefore, show on ParentPay.

Bromcom/MCAS

Further to our recent email, we can confirm that the recent issues some parents and carers have experienced with the 'My Child at School' MCAS app should now be resolved. Please ensure you have downloaded the latest version of the app if you have an Apple i-phone. The web version of MCAS remains available to all users as an alternative. Please also ensure you have added the following email address in your safe senders list to ensure you receive emails from school:

abkbromcom@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk

Book Fair!

A reminder that the Book Fair will be in school from 13th October- 20th October. If students would like to buy books in school time, they will need to buy vouchers online from this link: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers> . Vouchers can be bought up until midnight of the collection day (20th October) and are the only accepted form of payment in school hours.

We will also have the Fair at Year 7 Form Tutor evening on Thursday 16 October, where purchases can be made at the book fair itself, via a QR code which will be on display during the Fair. Proceeds raised will support the Library's offer and help to purchase even more books!

Nursing Service newsletter

Please find below the Autumn term newsletter from the School Nursing Service with lots of helpful information.

[Newsletter here](#)

Calendar dates

13-20 October – Book Fair

Thursday 16 October – Year 7 meet the Form Tutors for parents/carers

20-23 October – Year 10 Carding Mill Valley Geography trips

27-31 October – Half term

3 November – all students return to school

Wednesday 12 November – KS4 Presentation Evening

Thursday 20 November – Sixth Form Open Evening

Best wishes



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher



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