



1st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last 2 weeks have flown by! It was great to see so many Year 11 students and their parents/carers at our first virtual subject parents evening last week. There were relatively few technical hitches, and the benefits of appointments running to time and the convenience of being able to attend remotely may have compensated for the lack of in-person contact. We hope parents and students found the discussions useful – please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions. We will keep the use of the remote model under review and take feedback from staff and parents if we reach a point where it feels appropriate to consider returning to an in-person model. Year 7-10 have Subject Parents Evenings scheduled during the school year and at present we anticipate these being online meetings. Please see the calendar on our website for dates: <https://aldermanwhite.school/parents/calendar>

This week saw our Virtual Open Evening Presentation for Year 5 and 6 children and their parents / carers – a recorded version will be available to watch on our website from early next week. We decided against hosting an on-site Open Evening this year and have instead been hosting tours of the school for small groups with a senior member of staff. These have proved very popular and have been running continually throughout this week, with even more scheduled next week. Our students and staff have done a wonderful job of showing how our school operates every day and welcoming our visitors without getting distracted from their learning. We really appreciate the way they have taken it all in their stride, and our visitors have been very impressed by the calm, focussed, purposeful atmosphere and quality of teaching and learning and support.

Our enrichment programme continues to grow and re-establish itself as an integral part of life at Alderman White. Over the last 2 weeks we have had almost daily fixtures and competitions in football, rugby and netball, with some notable performances and victories. We expect everyone to take part in at least one enrichment activity, but know that many of our student do so much more. A big thank you and well done to every student representing Alderman White at sporting competitions, and to the staff who organise these events – thank you all for being great ambassadors for our school community.

There are not many schools that have two “Year 11” Proms in one calendar month, but after the success of our 2020 Reunion Prom a few weeks ago, we were back at the Walled Garden on Wednesday for our postponed 2021 Prom. It was wonderful to see the students who left us a few months ago. It was such a happy and joyful event that demonstrated how the challenges we have faced have strengthened our strong sense of community. The perseverance of staff in making sure that both year groups had a Prom was much appreciated by everyone who attended.

Target Setting and Assessment:

Over the next few weeks we will be reviewing targets for students in Year 9 and 11 and setting targets for students in Year 8 and 10. This is a collaborative process, especially for students in Year 10, where we set an initial target for the end of year 11 but review this throughout the 2-year course.

We do not set targets in Year 7 and instead ask students to aim to progress to the next level of our Emerging – Developing – Secure – Mastered bands, or to maintain Mastered if that is what they achieve in their first assessment. Targets for Year 8 will be set based on student progress in Year 7. You can find out more about Assessment in Key Stage 3 here: <https://aldermanwhite.school/ks3-assessment>

We will also collect information about your child’s attitude to learning and current grade or assessment band after half term and share this and target grades with you on My Child at School.

Chromebook Strategy:

We have been delighted by the way in which IT is becoming embedded into our Year 8 and 9 Curriculum. Almost all students are bringing their Chromebook or laptop fully charged every day – please ensure your child establishes the routine of charging it at home and reports any issues to our IT technician as quickly as possible. Embedding IT continues to be a focus for the development of teaching and learning, but we are very pleased so far with the way this is enhancing the other non-IT approaches that we use and offering far greater flexibility. We will start issuing devices to Year 7 students just before half term and hope to ensure that every Year 7 student also has a device as soon as possible after half term.

Coronavirus Update:

We have had 15 confirmed coronavirus cases amongst students in the last 10 days. 2 cases are in Year 7, 2 are in Year 8, 5 are in Year 9, 3 are in Year 10, and 3 are in Year 11. Some are linked to household cases or close contacts outside school, but others may have been caused by transmission in school.

Schools are no longer required to inform parent and carers about coronavirus cases and are no longer responsible for identifying close contacts. We have taken the decision to continue to inform you about cases in school in line with our policy with regard to other infectious diseases, to help you assess the level of risk of activities such as visiting elderly or vulnerable family members, and so that we can work together and be vigilant at times where cases start to increase in school.

Thank you so much for all your support in ensuring that your child monitors for symptoms and completes regular lateral flow tests, for supporting our protective measures plan, and communicating with us when you have a household case, close contact, or your child may have coronavirus – you all play your part in preventing greater levels of transmission, and enable us to minimise disruption to on-site learning.

We have now sent out the information about the coronavirus vaccination offer for 12-15-year olds on behalf of the School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS). Thank you to the parents who have already responded – we are asking that you complete the consent form by Wednesday 6th October in order to support SAIS with their planning. The vaccinations are scheduled to take place in school in the week before half term. SAIS will only be vaccinating students on site where they have received consent from parents/carers.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs A Mellors
Headteacher