



5th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a real pleasure to welcome our students back to school this week. Students have all been busy in lessons and engaging in our enrichment programme. Students in Year 10 represented the school in a Handball competition on Tuesday, and on Wednesday Year 8 students represented the school at a Mixed Rugby event. A group of Year 9 students were excellent ambassadors for the school, had fun and developed new skills taking part in an all-day workshop which was part of the Ambition Aim Higher programme. We encourage every student to take part in at least one enrichment activity regularly – but many do so much more! You can find our Enrichment programme here: <https://aldermanwhite.school/students/enrichment>

At the latest count, over 400 of our Year 7-9 students now have their own Chromebook (or laptop) for use in school and at home to support their learning. This is a remarkable development to our use of IT across the curriculum, and we are continuing to develop the range of ways in which they are used in school, and will be ensuring that every student in these year groups has their own device within the next few weeks.

Following the success of our school Eco-vember 2020, this month we are holding Eco-vember 2021, coinciding with COP21 taking place in Glasgow this week and next week. We know that environmental issues are of great importance to many of our students and families, and want to redouble and accelerate our efforts to reduce our environmental impact. Assemblies this week have focussed on COP26, we are relaunching our recycling scheme, and the tutor programme is focussing on environmental issues. Mr Lea has created a webpage which can be used at school and home, and we are keen to hear students' ideas for making our school more environmentally friendly on the Pupil Response page. <https://sites.google.com/whptrust.org/eco-vember2021/home>

Outdoor clothing:

As the weather changes, it is really important that your child brings a waterproof coat to school every day. As part of our uniform policy, coats should be any one single colour, and should fit comfortably over their blazer.

Homework:

During this term we have trialled setting homework tasks in BROMCOM so they can be seen by parents in the MCAS (MyChildAtSchool) App and by students in the Student Portal. Having reviewed this, and based on feedback from staff and students, **from Monday 8th November we have decided to revert to setting homework on google classroom only.** Homework will no longer be set on MCAS/Student Portal. Homework will be clearly labelled in the title and will have a due date so will show up on your child's "To Do" list. Teachers are expected to discuss homework tasks with students in the lesson, and students in Year 7-8 should also be given time to record the task title and deadline date in their planner.

We will re-invite parents to join google classrooms, which will enable you to receive a parent summary of tasks set for your child with the deadline. Parents of students in Year 7 & 8 can also check the tasks they have recorded in their planner. If you need more information about the tasks that we are setting for your child and you want to be more involved in supporting them to complete homework, we advise that you download the google classroom app and ask your child for their username and password. You can then see all of the information that they have access to on google classroom including their "To Do" list. If there are any concerns or issues with homework, please discuss these with your child's tutor in the first instance.

Student Targets:

We set a Key Stage 4 target grade for students in each of their subjects during the first half term of Year 10 and keep these under review throughout Key Stage 4. The target is the grade they should be aiming to achieve by the end of Year 11. Targets are set in discussion between the teacher and subject, although prior achievement data is also considered. We aim to set challenging but achievable targets that support students to achieve; these targets are just about your child and do not form part of our school accountability measures. This half term we have been setting targets with Year 10 and reviewing targets with Year 11; these will be published in the next few weeks as part of our first progress report.

In Year 7-9 we assess students in 4 broad attainment bands in each subject: Emerging, Developing, Secure and Mastery. The learning in each band becomes deeper and more challenging from Year 7 to Year 8 to Year 9, so a student who reaches “secure” each year is making good progress. We have moved away from setting targets in Year 7. We encourage students to make progress each time they do an assessment activity – this might be within the assessment band or to the next band. If your child is on “developing” they should be aiming to achieve “secure” in the next assessment; if they reach “mastery” they should try and maintain this as the learning becomes deeper and more challenging. We then set a Year 8 target in each subject at the start of Year 8 – the assessment band your child should aim to achieve by the end of Year 8. This will be to maintain the same assessment band achieved in Year 7, or possibly to achieve a higher one as each band becomes more challenging each year. The targets are kept under review and can be adjusted – they are intended to encourage and motivate your child to achieve to the highest level they can. We review this target at the start of Year 9 and set a Year 9 target – this is the assessment band they should aim to achieve by the end of Year 9.

Each term we will report to you your child’s Attitude to Learning Grade, Current Grade (the grade or band they are achieving at this point – this is likely to be an average since the start of the year in Year 7-9, or the course in Year 10-11) and their Predicted Grade or Band – this is what we expect them to achieve by the end of the year (Year 7-9) or course (Year 10-11).

Coronavirus Update:

Two students and a member of staff received positive lateral flow test results before returning to school this week, and since the start of the week, we have had one student (in Year 10) who received a positive lateral flow test, but, has subsequently tested negative on both a PCR and subsequent lateral flow tests.

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Student tested positive	1	5	34	18	24	30	3
Adult tested positive	1	1	2	1	2	2	1

We now have 27 CO² monitors which have been distributed around school. These are allowing us to maintain good ventilation throughout the day, and we have found them so useful that we are purchasing additional monitors so that we can have one in all classrooms and shared spaces.

We continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to have a coronavirus vaccination. Anyone aged 12 and above who has not yet been vaccinated or who is eligible for a booster vaccination can book or find information about drop in vaccination Centres here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Thank you for all your support in monitoring your child carefully for possible symptoms and the regular use of lateral flow testing at home. It really does help us to prevent transmission in school.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs A Mellors
Headteacher

Key Dates:

Wed 10th November: Year 9 Ambition Aim Higher Project University Visit

Thursday 11th November: Remembrance Day

Wed 17th November: Year 11 Christmas Carol Theatre Trip (Nottingham Playhouse)

Friday 19th November: Children in Need (Non-uniform day)

Monday 22nd November – Friday 3rd December: Year 11 Progress Exams

Thursday 2nd December: Year 8 Parents Evening

Tuesday 14th/Wednesday 15th December: Christmas Concert

Friday 17th December: Last Day of Term

Tuesday 4th January 2022: INSET Day

Wednesday 5th January: Students return to school