



# Aldworth

Building bright futures



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# NEWSLETTER



*Artwork by Sophie Jackson in year 7*

This year has been incredibly busy but rewarding. It's been good to get back to some sense of normality and start to run more events again. We're looking forward to even more next year. In this newsletter, we're looking back over the past year and sharing some reminders for September. I hope you have an enjoyable Summer break.

**Mr Rice**

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## Reading - ending the year on a high

The reading test data is all in and we have had some phenomenal results with some students making more than 4 years of progress. I have had the pleasure of writing and sending 54 postcards home to students who have made more than 2 years of progress with their reading. Obviously, there is still work to do with our weaker readers, but there are now fewer students who need phonics intervention. Our work next year will continue with phonics where needed but will also move towards developing vocabulary and comprehension of reading material. Thank you for all of the work you have been doing to develop reading within your subject areas and tutor groups.



**Mrs Griffiths**

Looking ahead to September, we would like to remind you that full details of our uniform expectations are on our website. The following information is to support students in wearing the correct uniform on our return to school:

- Trousers - students should not be wearing skinny trousers, leggings or denim like material to school.
- Shoes - must be plain black and students should not wear any type of trainers.
- Hair - should be of natural tones. Extreme hair styles and hair colour are not allowed.
- Jewelry - the only jewelry allowed at school is a watch and one stud earring per ear. Please do remember that nose studs are not allowed and will need to be removed.

We will be returning to school in the Autumn in the full uniform - navy Aldworth sweatshirt, white shirt and tie or white blouse, black trousers or navy blue Charleston knee length skirt, and plain black polish-able shoes.

Many thanks for your continued support.

**Mr Rice**

## Dates for your diary

Thu 1 September	INSET day (school closed)
Fri 1 September	INSET day (school closed)
Mon 5 September	First Day of Term 8.40am Years 7 and 11 11.00am Years 8, 9 and 10
Thur 29 September	Open Evening 5pm - 8pm
Wed 5 October	Open Morning 9am - 10.30am
Mon 24 October to Fri 28 October	Half Term Holiday
Thu 1 December	Year 9 Interim Reviews to parents
Thu 15 December	Year 10 Interim Reviews to parents
Mon 19 December to Mon 2 January	Christmas Holiday

# WINNERS OF THE HAMPSHIRE POLICE SCHOOLS KNIFE CRIME MEDIA CHALLENGE

Twenty-five of our talented Year 10 pupils produced their own short podcasts on the risks around carrying a knife as part of the Hampshire Police Schools – Knife Crime Media Challenge.

One of the five podcasts/poems created by our year 10 pupils on anti-knife crime was selected for the final and after an unprecedented amount of last-minute voting, and for the first time, Aldworth School was declared joint winners. Well done Harrison, Breanna, Harry, Shayla and Kacper!



## Visit by Izhiah Yarde

On Thursday 21st October, we were visited by Izhiah Yarde. He is an accomplished young musician who has worked with the likes of Stormzy, Ellie Golding, Gabrielle and KSI just to name a few.

He delivered a presentation to Years 7-10 on what it was like to grow up as a young black boy in South-East London, to be a touring musician, as well as inspiring our students to dedicate themselves to a life of continued learning and development. He also played some beautiful music for us too!

Our students had an array of fantastic questions, and left feeling challenged and motivated. We'd like to say a massive thank you to Izhiah and all the staff involved in making the day run so smoothly.



# STUDENT VOICE IN MATHS AND YEAR 10 INTO 11 REVISION

Way back in June, I conducted a student voice panel in Maths getting the pupils to summarise how things were in Maths and any problems they were having. I am pleased to say that the students were very clear on the consistency and routines that were expected in Maths. One message that was really useful to hear, and one I have heard before was that students didn't know how to revise in Maths. So, we took half a lesson in each class explaining the three steps of maths revision: knowledge, skill practise and exam questions where you need to select the correct skill. We pointed the students to a number of sources of resources and thought we had solved the problem. Pupils' reception to this was good. However, on listening to students again we were still hearing "I don't know how to revise". This is a really important problem for me to solve as without solving this the pupils can have the best intentions in the world but struggle to do anything useful to improve their grades. So, we have invested a large amount of time collating resources in one place. As we enter Year 11, we will do a quick in class assessment and direct students each week to a spreadsheet in the Microsoft team. Each student will be revising in response to their own personal need. They will have a video/bitesize page to give them the knowledge then some textbook style questions and some exam style questions. In an ideal world these should be spread out over a few weeks as this would help retention of the knowledge. This may mean in a week a pupil may be learning the knowledge for a set of questions while also doing the text book style questions from a previous weeks revision topic. This method will identify potentially quite a few things to revise so can I ask that you support your son/daughter in taking on a sensible amount of work each week. As a parent you know where they are mentally, with outside school commitments and have a unique overview of the workload from all the subjects they study in school. Hopefully I have finally solved the I don't know what to revise.

To kick this revision off we have linked your son/daughter's mock paper with these resources so hopefully every student has a list detailing the topics their mock is saying they need to focus some effort on. In an ideal world this should be done over the summer as we will be finding new topics in September.

Finally, can I encourage you to get in contact if you have any concerns in Maths as the sooner we hear about things the sooner we can put them to bed. Student voice is a great tool but a slow one for uncovering some problems.

**Mrs Goldsworthy**

## STOP AND SEARCH AWARENESS ADVOCATE



As a Stop and Search Awareness Advocate, Mrs Coultriss will be able to support any of our children with the stop and search process and be an advocate for the child. The aim is to build more effective relationships and trust so children know how to respond appropriately if they are stopped and searched.



# TEACHING AND LEARNING—THE MINI WHITEBOARD

This year we have shifted the traditional thinking of feedback in the class to a more responsive approach. This involves a higher demand on student engagement whilst enabling students to demonstrate their learning frequently throughout every lesson, informing the teacher of accurate next steps. One of the primary ways we have achieved this is by using 'mini whiteboards'. This year all students were provided with a board and asked to bring their own pen. We see this piece of equipment as an essential part of our learning just like an exercise book.

Therefore, in September everyone will receive a new whiteboard and pen. If a replacement or spare is needed before it is worn out, these are available for £1 and can be purchased on Scopay.

In class the teacher will pose a question or problem to check for understanding. Instead of students raising their hand with the answer (some may get picked to share after a small arm ache) they all write their answers on the mini whiteboard, so everyone is thinking, participating and engaged. This practice seen in every classroom throughout the school with strong routine that considers cognitive processing.



Just walking around this week, I have seen a range of excellent examples of how these boards are used in lessons from ABC recall quizzes, to drawing representations. These boards maybe useful to use at home too when completing homework, especially if they want somewhere to jot down some ideas or work something out before completing the work.

**Mrs Poulton**



## **MOBILE PHONES**

In September, we will be enforcing our mobile phones policy. We understand that mobile phones and technology are now a key part of modern life. Many students own a mobile phone with access to the internet and will carry a mobile phone to school for safety reasons. However, they do unfortunately lead to several problems in school such as bullying and disruption to lessons. Our policy is that any mobile phone, music player or headphones seen or heard during the school day will be confiscated. This includes at break and lunchtimes, and we will ask parents to collect the phone from reception.

Staff may allow students to use their phones in a lesson to support learning where appropriate - this will be clearly signed on the classroom door so the leadership team are aware, and students may only use them for the stated purpose.

We appreciate that there are sometimes life events or situations where a student may feel they need contact with home during the day. In these rare situations, we ask that the students go to reception where we can contact home for them.

Thank you in advance for your support.

**Mr Rice**

# IN-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## Business and Enterprise Day

Year 9 took part in a Business and Enterprise activity run by SATRO, an educational charity. Teams of students were tasked with running a manufacturing business for the day where they experienced how to manufacture products, buy supplies, manage their finances and ultimately win and fulfil orders from buyers.



## Science in Schools

We had The Royal Institution of Great Britain - Science in Schools come to Aldworth to present a community show in June. There was audience participation, demonstrations and, of course, big bangs!



## Army Day

Team building, character building and tank building with the Army!



# EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

Learning at Aldworth isn't finished at 3.00; in fact it has only just started. We believe that a great school gives students a range of opportunities to extend their subjects, find new hobbies and try something different.

Extra-curricular clubs give students the opportunity to make new friends, develop new skills and are an essential part of the Aldworth experience.

Here are just some of the clubs that have been running this year.

- Anime club
- Board Games Club
- Charity Club
- Chess Club/Board Games/Yu-gi-oh
- Code Breaker
- Dance Club
- Drama Club
- DT Club KS3
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Eco Club
- Foodies Club
- GCSE Art Club
- GCSE Astronomy
- GCSE DT Club
- Hair & Beauty Club
- Homework Support Club
- Italian Club
- Languages Film Club
- Lego Club
- LGBTQ+ Student Group
- Mindfulness
- Music Club
- Musical Appreciation Society (MAS)
- Painting for PE
- Police Cadets
- Science club
- Textiles/Art Club

Look out for the new timetable in September and come along and try something new!



# SCHOOL TRIPS

Educational day trips are one of the highlights of being a student and at Aldworth we are committed to providing our students with varied opportunities to learn outside of the classroom. Here are a few of the trips that took place this year.



## Kew Gardens

On 4th and 5th July, over 180 Year 7 students visited Kew Botanic Gardens in Richmond. From the photos you can see they had a great day out and the teachers did too. Students learnt about tropical rainforests and other biomes.



## Superstars Event

We had an excellent day out for our all-around athletes competing at the Superstars event. Well done to everyone that took part!



## The Vyne

15 Year 7 pupils took a fascinating historical tour of the house and gardens at The Vyne. The students then explored the ancient woodlands and even had time to make dens!

## Life Lab

We took 2 classes of year 8 students to Lifelab at the University of Southampton. We learned about our health, did plenty of experiments and had lots fun! They were visiting Life-lab as part of a national study that they have been involved in.

The students were excellent, asked lots of great questions and have been working hard on improving their health choices using an App they downloaded at Lifelab. The temperature in the lab they were working in went up to 29C but the level of concentration and effort was really impressive, the staff even said so!

# CHARITY CLUB

On Thursday 30 June, Charity Club were shortlisted in the 'Community Project' category at the prestigious Basingstoke A Place to be Proud of Award ceremony which was held at the Haymarket Theatre. Sadly, on this occasion, they didn't win the award but came very close in a very strong category which was made up of 12 finalists. These awards shine a light on and reward those local individuals and groups who go above and beyond in order to make Basingstoke a great place to live and work.

Charity Club have supported the Basingstoke and local community in many ways over the past year. They have raised thousands of pounds for local charities - most recently for Basingstoke Neighbour Care. They have provided essential support and awareness for local organisations such as their continued partnership with the Basingstoke Foodbank, volunteering widely within the local community in a variety of settings/scenarios.

We are very proud of everything Mr Lewis and the team have achieved.



# YEAR 9 GRADUATION

Class of 2022



Year 9 celebrated the completion of KS3 and their transition into KS4 with a graduation.

To celebrate we recognised students for things such as outstanding attitude to learning and attendance, amongst a few.

Students then spent the remainder of the afternoon having fun and playing games with their peers enjoying the sun. A great afternoon was had by all.





# LEAVERS 2022

## Prom!

Our Year 11 students celebrated their Prom on 30 June at Audley's Wood Hotel in Basingstoke.

Here are some pictures from a wonderful evening!



