



# ALDWICKBURY SCHOOL

Headmaster: VW Hales, B.Ed. (Hons)

Wheathampstead Road  
Harpenden  
Herts  
AL5 1AD

Tel: 01582 713022

Email: [secretary@aldwickbury.org.uk](mailto:secretary@aldwickbury.org.uk)  
Web: [www.aldwickbury.org.uk](http://www.aldwickbury.org.uk)

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Dear Parents

As we continue to make our way through uncertain times, I am only too aware that for all members of the Aldwickbury Community there are challenges ahead. As we take the advice helping us to make decisions about our next steps, it is clear that many parents and families are facing similar issues both at work and at home. Whether that is concerns about loved ones, changing patterns of home life or whether the home hub will work with all the family trying to log on, I understand the concerns. Whilst our decisions are based primarily on the boys' health and education, we are cognisant of some of the wider impacts that these will have.

The advice that we all continue to follow evolves on a daily basis. As we know, we all have a role to play, and the most significant change has been that if any member of the family develops the symptoms (new continuous cough and/or a high temperature) then the whole family is to self-isolate for 14 days. Whilst the boys are in school we continue to monitor their health and will send them home if they are not well or develop the specific symptoms as above. I would like to reassure parents that if the boys are away from school because they are unwell, please don't worry if they miss work at this stage. There will be plenty of time for them to catch up in the coming weeks.

Over the last few days, the number of boys absent has increased due to a variety reasons, not all of which are directly coronavirus related; as things stand, we have had no confirmed cases of coronavirus. We also have several members of staff who are absent from school, again some of which are linked to coronavirus and some are not. We intend to remain open with the understanding that we may be advised to close or we will reach a point where that becomes necessary.

Some boys have started to bring in their own water bottles and use the drinking water taps to refill them during the day. We are very happy for them to do so, but please ensure that bottles are named.

We have decided to make one or two changes to activities in the next couple of weeks, whilst we continue to follow our normal timetable, with minor adjustments that we will inform the boys about on a day-to-day basis. However, other significant changes are:

### **End of day arrangements for the rest of the week**

- For boys in Reception to Year 4 there will be no change.
- After School Club will continue to operate as normal for those who still require this, please book in as normal.

### **Today**

As there are no matches this afternoon we will not run our normal afternoon programme. Therefore, whilst I realise that it is short notice, school will finish at **4.30pm** for the boys in Year 5 to 8. If this is inconvenient please do not worry, we will look after the boys who are not able to be collected. If you wish your son **to stay beyond this time** please could I ask that you email Mrs Grogan [c.grogan@aldwickbury.org.uk](mailto:c.grogan@aldwickbury.org.uk)  
There is no boarders' supper tonight.

### **Thursday and Friday**

School for Year 5 to 8 will finish at **4.30pm**, the rest of the school will finish at the normal time. If this is inconvenient please do not worry, we will look after the boys who are left. If you wish your son **to stay beyond this time** please could I ask that you email Mrs Grogan [c.grogan@aldwickbury.org.uk](mailto:c.grogan@aldwickbury.org.uk)  
There is no boarders' supper on Thursday.

### **Boarding**

We have decided that there will be no boarding for the rest of the term.

### **Holiday Club and Bikeability**

Due to the uncertainty around the current situation we have made the decision that we will not be able to run the Holiday Club this year. I realise that for many of the boys, particularly some of the younger ones, this will be a disappointment. The Bikeability course has been cancelled by the Hertfordshire Cycling Team. Obviously, any monies that you had already paid will be refunded through the billing process.

### **Year 5 to 8 reports**

The reports will be sent to parents, but this may be after the published date next week.

One of the problems that we all face are the increasing restrictions placed on overseas travel. Due to this, our overseas gappers are all going to head home in the next few days. Jock Heinrich, Annika Gourley and Liam Parker-Dennison have been excellent members of staff and quickly become part of our community. It is unfortunate but it is important that they return to their families at this time. We hope that once we have some certainty they will be able to return and continue their gap year; but in the meantime, we wish them safe travels.

Finally, we will be writing to you with further details regarding arrangements for remote learning over the coming days. I have enjoyed talking to the boys over the last few days as they explain what they have already been told by their teachers about how they will be working. I even had a discussion yesterday about what they will wear; some felt that putting on their school uniform would be a good idea when they do their schoolwork!

With best wishes to you and your families.



Vernon Hales  
Headmaster