



Alameda Middle School

Inspire ▀ Achieve ▀ Excel

10th July 2020

Weekly Update

Dear parents and carers,

This is always an exciting time of the year when we usually hold our transition days and pupils get to meet their new form tutors for the next academic year. Unfortunately, we have not been able to do this, like so many of our other end of year activities we enjoy. Form tutors have, however been busy working on a way to share this news with you and next week each form group will receive a link to a goodbye message from their current form tutor and a hello message from their new one.

I am able share with you today our Year Leader teams for next year are:

Year 5 Year Leader – Mrs Sibley

Year 6 Year Leader – Mr Harley

Year 7 Year Leader – Mrs How & Assistant Year Leader - Mrs O'Grady

Year 8 Year Leader – Mrs Burt & Assistant Year Leader – Mr Stonehouse

I would also like to reassure you that our Year Leaders are currently working on ways to support pupils with transitioning both back into school and into their new year groups in September and this will be at the forefront of our planning for September.

Plan for Year 8 pupils to return to Alameda

Next week, we look forward to the return of the majority of our year 8 pupils to school. Thank you to parents/carers and year 6 pupils for enabling us to do this. We will, of course also have our key worker groups in school up to the end of term too.

Everyone who has replied to say their child will be attending next week will should have received an individual message with details of their start and finish times, room base and who they will be working with. Please contact us at office@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk if you have not received this. We wont, at this point be able to add anyone else into groups if we have not received a response by now. I hope you understand that at the moment, our planning has to be very detailed and all groupings are based on specific numbers.

Year 8 will receive an extra letter today with a reminder of some of the important information for next week

Summer break and September

As I advised previously, school will be closed to pupils from Friday 17th July to Friday 4th September. We are currently finalising our plans for September, as we will be inviting all pupils to return in September. We have completed our initial planning for this, subject to approval from our health and safety advisor and governors. We are planning a short

phasing of pupils so that the new year 5 can have their first day as the only pupils in school, having not had a physical transfer day. More details about this and how the school day will look will follow next week.

Activities to support home learning

Pupils at home continue to make excellent efforts to complete the set work for them. We are working hard to support any issues or difficulties and have seen an increase this week in engagement. We appreciate it is very hard to maintain motivation and to keep going having been independent learners for many weeks but we would really like to congratulate all those who continue to submit work.

We will continue to set activities on **Google Classroom** next week, but will be taking a break over the summer. Once we return in September, while we will be able to accommodate the whole school, we will continue to use Google Classroom.

Here is a reminder of how you can access the user guide.

<http://www.alamedamiddleschool.org.uk/page/default.asp?pid=216>.

Remember that support can also be gained by contacting us at ithelp@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk.

Wow awards

During recent months, with restrictions on our interactions and the passing of paper and trying to minimise movement between groups, the logistics of organising "Wow" awards have been more challenging. The pupils have, however, continued to produce some fantastic work both in school and at home. While much of this has been acknowledged through the success updates from our year leaders or some other ways, such as Instagram, I also wanted to add some "Wow" awards. You will start to receive these next week and I will publish your names in our final letter of the academic year next week.

It is a shame that I will not have been able to invite those of you receiving "Wow" awards to come to see me to chat about your achievements and take your picture. We will therefore use your picture from our records and I would like you to know that I have enjoyed looking through all of the "Wow" award nominations. From "Where I am from" poems to Macbeth inspired work to fabulous art and science work. Looking through your "wow" work has always been the highlight of my day. Thank you to everyone to whom this applies! Look out for names next week.

Models and other practical projects

While many have been collected, we still have a number of fantastic models, such as those the pupils have produced of favelas, castles, imaginary animals etc. These are wonderful and have often received wow awards. I would like to remind you again that in preparation for September, we are going to need to clear classrooms and create space and would, therefore, need to dispose of any unclaimed models at the end of this term. If there is a model you would like to have returned, we will work with you to arrange to collect it. Please email office@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk indicating your child's name and form, a description of the model and the name of the member of staff who is most likely to have it.

Reports

As you will be aware, we usually provide a full report for all pupils once each year, with shorter interim reports on the other terms. We provided full written reports for years 6 and 7 earlier this year. Years 5 and 8 will receive their written reports next week. These will be

similar to the usual full report, but in line with guidance and due to the current situation, will not make reference to attendance or current attainment. The reports will be sent via Edulink, and will appear in the document section. We will send an email to notify you when this has happened.

Exercise books

We have organised a system which will enable us to return exercise books to year 8 pupils who would like to keep them. Pupils in years 5, 6 and 7 will continue with their current exercise books into the next academic year.

Year 8 pupils who are in school will be able to take their books home with them on Wednesday or Thursday if they wish to. If pupils who are not returning would like to arrange to collect their books before the summer break, please email us at office@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk and we will be able to arrange a time for you to collect these from reception.

I would like to thank you once again for your continued support

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Warner', written in a cursive style.

Miss M Warner
Headteacher