

ALT BRIDGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2020

School Values

Care

Courtesy

Resilience

Determination

This month I have given out 32 awards so far to students who have been nominated for Care, Courtesy, Resilience and Determination. There are so many positive contributions being made by our students. Great news!

The Wellbeing Change Team met again in this month to look at our plans for wellbeing. Our final award assessment date will be the 9th July 2020. I have arranged a parent/carer briefing for **Tuesday 10th March at 9am** so I can update parents with all changes and all plans that are in place. I want to thank all staff, students and parents for their contributions to date.



Staff continue to carry out learning environment review and development work to create a learning environment, which is calm, purposeful and supportive of a range of sensory needs. Here is a picture of one of our new 'calm corridors'. We are eagerly awaiting the opening of our brand new 'Wellbeing Hub', which should be completed with additional therapeutic spaces.

Mrs Menagh – Head teacher

Partnerships

Focus on Health: Our School Nurse is available for regular sessions each week. Students are invited to self-refer if they have any concerns about their health. Parents/carers are also able to access the School Nurse through our Wellbeing Team. Please contact school if you would like to make contact.

Focus on physical and sensory needs: Our Occupational Therapist Jess is in school every Monday. If you would like to access her advice or support please contact the Wellbeing Team to request an appointment. Jess is trained to assess holistic needs and has supported our learning environment review in school.

Girls Football: Our girls football team performed extremely well this month and made Alt Bridge very proud!



New Therapeutic Interventions

We are continually expanding our therapeutic interventions for students who require additional support with mental health and wellbeing. The Wellbeing Hub team have developed a menu of support that they will send home to parents/carers soon. Here are some of the interventions that have started this term;

- Music Therapy

- RDA lessons
- Dramatherapy
- Yoga and mindfulness
- Circle of Friends
- Pet therapy



Miss Cowpertwaite and Miss Stockton took a group of eager students horse-riding this week at Beesley Stables which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Safeguarding

Our school safeguarding team includes Mrs Menagh, Mr Farrimond, Miss Richards and Miss Pritchard.

CSE Play

A play production, Q&A session was delivered to pupils in years 9-11 and post-16 to raise awareness of risky situations and ensure they know how to spot signs that they may be begin manipulated, groomed or threatened. As students grow their networks of friends they need to develop skills to be able to recognise when someone is not trustworthy. This play supported them to do that and there were some interesting pieces of feedback from the students.



" a powerful message " year 10 pupil

"a reality check of what can actually happen" year 11 pupil

"made me realise I have choices and can say no to things I think are wrong" year 9 pupil

"I didn't realise how easy it is to be manipulated by someone who I though was a friend" year 9 pupil

PLEASE NOTE: **Mobile phones are not permitted** in school. Only independent travellers are able to bring phones to school and they must be handed into the office on arrival. Cooperation from parents/carers and students in this matter is much appreciated.

Coming Soon!

CELLS project 6th March– Year 9 pupils will engage in this awareness-raising workshop around criminal exploitation. Continued work to ensure our pupils know how to keep themselves safe.

Parent/carer wellbeing briefing with the Head teacher – Tuesday 10th March 9am

Celebrating Neurodiversity Week – 16th-20th March

Post-16 Opening Day for post-16 parents and other key visitors – Wednesday 18th March 10am-12pm