

ALT BRIDGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January/February 2022



School Values

Care

Courtesy

Resilience

Determination

Warm wishes to all our students and their families! 2022 has started with many wonderful things happening at Alt Bridge and it has been wonderful to see our students settling into school life despite the continued disruption of COVID-19.

It is important that our parents and carers are aware that we have experienced a high degree of staff absence this year and this term has been more challenging than usual.

I wish to reassure parents and carers that we are doing everything possible to keep timetables and routines consistent for our students, however, your usual lines of communication may be affected with particular staff as they will be unable to respond if they are absent. Please do contact the school office if you need to speak with someone about your child and have been unable to connect with the person you usually communicate with.

Mrs Menagh – Head teacher

Key dates coming up

Children's mental health week	–	WB Monday 7 th February 2022
Dress to Express yourself day	–	Friday 11 th February 2022
Get Away Safe Programme	–	WB Monday 14 th February 2022

Staff Changes

We look forward to welcoming the following new members of staff this term;

- Ms R Loughran – Teacher
- Miss H Windsor – Teaching Assistant
- Miss R O'Callaghan – Teaching Assistant
- Miss E Bell – Teaching Assistant

We also say a fond farewell to Mrs Martin who has worked at Alt Bridge as an Administrative Assistant for the last twenty-eight years who has left Alt Bridge for retirement. We wish her all the best in the future and thank her wholeheartedly for her many years of dedicated service.

Behaviour for Learning

The majority of our students are doing exceptionally well with their behaviour for learning and we look forward to providing certificates to those students who consistently meet our five key expectations.

Our five key expectations for behaviour for learning are;

- 1. Attend and participate**
- 2. Be kind**
- 3. Communicate respectfully**
- 4. Be ready to learn**
- 5. Stay safe**

If students are experiencing difficulties with behaviour for learning, we are keen to work with parents/carers through a pastoral support plan. Please contact your child's head of year for more information;

Year 7 – Mrs Richards

Year 8 – Mr Randall

Year 9 – Miss Dallas

Year 10 – Mr Austin

Year 11 – Mrs Rodgers

Mental health and wellbeing

We know that many children, young people and their families face a number of challenges which may affect their mental health and wellbeing. We hope that you feel able to contact our wellbeing hub if you feel that support is needed. Below are some additional phone numbers that can be used to seek further support beyond school;

Knowsley CAMHS crisis line – 0151 489 6137 or 01744 627618

Samaritans – 116 123 (free call)

Young Minds - call the free parents' helpline on 0808 802 5544 from 9.30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday

COVID-19

There have been high numbers of cases of COVID-19 amongst our student and staff population this term so far. Parents/carers are reminded that students should continue with home testing using lateral flow devices. Test kits are still available within school.

Having a say – Preparing for Adulthood in Knowsley

Co-designing Our Vision for Great Lives and Preparing for Adulthood In Knowsley. PATH Workshop



Date:
Monday
31st Jan 2022

Time:
10:00 – 2:00pm



QR code

We were so proud of the students from year 10, 11 and post-16 who took part in this event on the 31st January and the second event on the 3rd February. The students shared their views about what support they want from services in order to prepare for the greatest success at adulthood.

The workshops were engaging and gave our students the opportunity to have their say.

It is really important that the voices of young people in Knowsley are included in planning for more services and support.

It is also wonderful news that one of our post-16 students will also be included as a representative on the SEND Partnership Board for Knowsley moving forward.

Research at Alt Bridge

We are delighted to have developed links with Edge Hill University and have been successful in our bid to fund further research into social communication skills and Autism.

In 2022, selected students will be invited to engage in a research programme focused on the use of 3D printing to develop **social communication skills**. If successful, we hope to be able to continue this provision as one of the many programmes we have on offer to our students.



Edge Hill University

Sports News



Our fantastic girl's football team which includes Mirrame, Ellie, Mia, Lilly, Annabelle and Isla performed brilliantly at their recent competition and won the Novice Gold medal. Well done to Alt Bridge Students!

Specialist Services

In addition to NHS and council-provided services, we commission the following specialist agencies to provide further support to our students;

- The ADHD Foundation
- OSSME Autism Initiatives
- Music Place music therapy
- Shine Therapy occupational therapy
- The Brook Clinic
- Bridge Speech therapy
- Military School
- Pet Therapy UK
- The CELLS project
- The Anthony Walker Foundation



We continue to be grateful for the work of our fantastic partners in ensuring the best outcomes for our students. If parents/carers would like to discuss any of the services in relation to their child, please contact our wellbeing hub team to talk to one of our learning mentors or ask your child's form tutor for more information. We allocate students on a needs-led basis.

Household support fund

Please be aware that we can offer some small and immediate amounts of financial support to families who may be struggling with the costs of food, fuel or other essentials this winter for various reasons. If you feel that you would benefit from accessing support through this fund, please speak in confidence to a member of our learning mentor team. Our learning mentors are;

- Miss Pritchard
- Miss Newton
- Miss Freeman
- Miss Townson
- Mrs Stockton