

# ALT BRIDGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

November/December 2021



## School Values

Care

Courtesy

Resilience

Determination

A Happy Christmas to all our families! We are approaching the end of the Autumn term 2021 and soon to enter 2022!

I know that we are all hoping to see our way past the difficulties and challenges that COVID-19 has brought and our school population continue to find a way forward with true determination and resilience, although we must still continue to prioritise health and safety. This means that we continue to operate in carefully considered ways, including enhanced cleaning, the return of face masks in shared areas and also with certain restrictions on what we are able to offer.

It is important that our students return to the experience of performance and drama, something that was unable to go ahead at all last year. With this in mind, we have been preparing our year 7 and 8 students to perform a Christmas Pantomime in school. **Could parents please send all year 7 and 8 students into school in black tops and black leggings/jogging bottoms on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of December.** Sadly, given the risks related to COVID-19, we will not be in a position to invite families into school to see the performance, however, we are working to release video and photo footage where possible.

The rest of our Christmas activities have been planned to provide some positive social experiences and special occasions for our wonderful students. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs Menagh – Head teacher

## Christmas Activities

End of term reward assemblies	-	<b>Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>
Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper (or Christmas accessory day)	-	<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>
Christmas silent disco day (own clothes)	-	<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>
School Christmas raffle draw	-	<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>
Christmas pantomime performances	-	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup>-Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>
Christmas decorating competition	-	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>

Supreme Travel Selection Boxes delivery! - **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

Early Finish 1PM - **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021**

## **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

### **Staff Changes**

We look forward to welcoming the following new members of staff in the New Year;

- Ms A Purcell – English teacher
- Miss L Williams – Teaching Assistant
- Miss L Kuya – Teaching Assistant

We also say a fond farewell to Mr McNamara who has worked at Alt Bridge as a Teaching Assistant for the last twenty-five years and will be retiring at the end of this term. Mr McNamara will be missed by our staff and students. We wish him all the best in the future and thank him for his many years of dedicated support to Alt Bridge students.

### **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**

### **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

The government recently announced some additional measures which for schools include the wearing of face masks in shared areas. Students are still expected to attend school and we strongly encourage all students, unless exempt, to wear face masks on transport and in shared areas in school. We ask that all staff and visitors do the same.



## Welfare and Attendance

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

**Good attendance is really important and can make a huge difference to the academic and personal outcomes that students achieve.**

## Extracurricular School Clubs

Just a reminder about the clubs we offer over the lunch period currently in school.

What Day?	What Activity?	What time?	Who With?	Where is it?	Year Groups
<b>Monday</b>	Forestry School	Lunch Time 11:45 -12:05	Mr Gallagher	Forest Area	7 & 8
	Fitness and Weights Gym	Lunch time 12:30 – 12:50	Mr Lamb	Fitness and Weights Gym	9, 10 & 11
	Quiet Reading	Lunch Time 12:00 – 12:30	Miss Francis	Room 2	7 & 8
	Singing Club	Lunch Time 12:30 – 12:50	Miss Carroll	Room 7	9, 10 & 11
	Friendship Club	Lunch Time 12:10 – 12:30	Mrs Melling	Room 18	7
<b>Tuesday</b>	Boys Football	Lunch Time 12:30 – 12:50	Mr Evans	MUGA	9, 10 & 11
	Forestry School	Lunch Time 12:30 – 12:50	Mr Gallagher	Forest Area	9, 10 & 11
	Drama Club	Lunch Time	Miss Hawkins	Room 8	9, 10 & 11

		12:30 – 12:50			
	Dance Club	Lunch Time	Miss Carroll	Sports Hall	9, 10 & 11
		12:30 – 12:55			
<b>Wednesday</b>	Dodgeball	Lunch Time	Mr Lamb	Sports Hall	7 & 8
		11:45 – 12:05			
	Girls Football	Lunch Time	Miss Hughes	MUGA	9, 10 & 11
		12:30 – 12:50			
<b>Thursday</b>	Art Club	Lunch Time	Miss Brackley	Room 35	9, 10 & 11
		12:45 – 13:10			
	Basketball	Lunch Time	Mr Reddin	Sports Hall	9, 10 & 11
		12:30 – 12:50			
<b>Friday</b>	Girls Football	Lunch Time	Miss Morrall	Sports Hall	7 & 8
		11:45-12:05			
	Boys Football	Lunch Time	Mr Evans	MUGA	7 & 8
		11:45 – 12:05			
	Friendship Club	Lunch Time	Miss Brackley	Room 35	7
		12:00 – 12:30			
	Careers Club	Lunch Time	Miss Beasley	Room 5	9, 10, 11
		12:50 – 14:00			

## Rights Respecting School

Earlier this year, we achieved the Rights Committed Schools Award – the Bronze level award with UNICEF. This year, we are aiming for the silver award by continuing to educate students about the rights of the child and how to respect the rights of others.

On **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December** we will be recognising the World Human Rights day 2021 by wearing bright colours and talking about the rights we have in life.



## 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