

ALT BRIDGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September/October 2022

School Values

Care

Courtesy

Resilience

Determination

Our new school year and the autumn term have started very well! We are delighted to welcome our new year 7s and other new students to Alt Bridge. Following on from their transition week in summer term, students in year 7 have settled in well.

There is lots of news to report on from this term already within this newsletter and I hope parents and carers have been enjoying more opportunities to come onto site for different events and activities.

With half term fast approaching, it reminds us how quickly time flies.

We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 31st October after half term, when they can enjoy a day of Halloween fun! A poster has been sent out on the App to parents and carers to explain more.

We know that this winter is going to present with various challenges for our families given the pressures people are feeling nationally. Remember that we are here to support in any way we can. Stay in touch.

Best wishes,

Mrs Menagh – Head teacher

Staff Changes

We are delighted to welcome Mr T Melling to Alt Bridge as another teacher for our students.

September has also seen the start of our new Diversity Team who are responsible for individual support for students with more complex needs. The team includes a number of our established staff members who have moved across into this team to be able to work with students individually. The team is led by Miss O'Callaghan.

Open Event 2022

In September, we welcomed prospective parents and carers and their children onto site to see what Alt Bridge offers. The open event went very well and we were delighted by the feedback from our visitors.

Opening of our new Creative Enterprise Café

Our fantastic new Creative Enterprise Café has opened! We have already had three wonderful form coffee mornings for parents and carers in there which has given our students an opportunity to practice employability skills whilst working within the café.

This wonderful part of school will be used frequently by students to enhance employability and enterprise opportunities.



Food Tech room opening!!



We were delighted to be able to open our brand new food tech and textiles room for students. The room was refurbished fully following a contribution of a grant towards the overall costs from The Wolfson Foundation after the school successfully won the bid for funding.

We were delighted to welcome not one, but three Great British Bake-Off contestants to join in with our opening and the fabulous Lizzie Acker cut the ribbon!

We wish to give thanks to our key partners in achieving this fantastic new resource for the school who include Knowsley Assets Management team, Sterling contractors and the Wolfson Foundation.

The room and the wonderful lessons provided through this facility will continue to support our students on their path towards independence and success in adulthood.



Safeguarding

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

Mobile phones

We ask for parental support to ensure that one key safeguarding rule that is in place throughout school is adhered to. This relates to mobile phones. Mobile phones are only permitted to be brought to school by independent travellers (students who use public transport or walk to school). These students must hand phones in on arrival at school. They are then collected at the end of the day. We ask parents and carers to support this by making sure that students who travel by school transport or are brought by parents/carers, leave their phones at home.

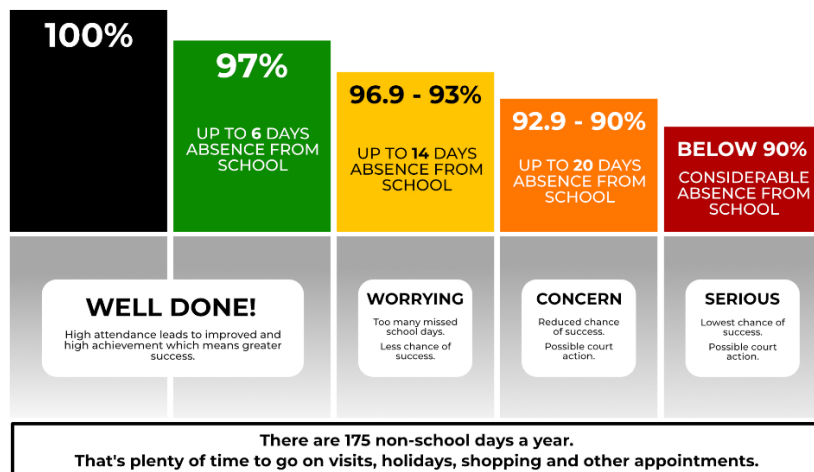


Attendance

Good attendance is really important and can make a huge difference to the academic and personal outcomes that students achieve. Our whole school attendance is currently at **88%** which is low and we need to continue to work together to increase this. There are several things that parents/carers can do to support improved attendance;

- Contact the school if you have any concerns about achieving good attendance and work with us
- Support your child to develop resilience by coming into school to discuss any issues and work with us to find solutions when things may have gone wrong
- Avoid booking term time family holidays
- Contact the transport service if there are any concerns about transport

WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?



Chair of Governors

Our very long-standing Chair of Governors, Sue Gannon will be stepping down from her role as Chair this month. Sue has fulfilled her role as Chair of Governors for over twenty-five years and contributed massively to Alt Bridge over that time.

Sue will become an associate governor so it is not a goodbye. Alt Bridge governing body are in the process of electing a new chair and this will be announced later this month.

Alt Bridge School thanks Sue for her many years of service, for always caring and being there to support the whole school community. Thank you!

*Thank
You*

Careers Fair coming soon!!

Alt Bridge Careers Fair

Wednesday 19th October 2022



We are extremely excited to announce this year Careers Fair is on Wednesday 19th October. We would like to invite Year 10,11 and Post 16 parents/guardians and carers at the times shown below. The day will be a fantastic opportunity to meet representatives from local colleges, training providers and employers. Explore some of the exciting opportunities that await our students after Alt Bridge! We hope you can join us!

Who will be there?

Alt Bridge Post 16
Carmel College
Knowsley Community College
Hugh Baird College
Myerscough College
Greenbank College
ASK Apprenticeships
Livv Housing
St Helens Chamber
AND MANY MORE

Timings

10:00 to 10:45 Year 10's

11:45 to 12:30 Year 11

13:30 to 14:15 Post 16

Come and use the
Jobs Explorer Careers
Programme

We will have lots of exciting careers events across this academic year so keep an eye the Alt Bridge app and website for more details!

Behaviour for Learning

We offer extensive support to students to enable them to develop positive behaviour for learning. We consider this a key life skill which would enable our students to go onto successful adult lives. It is so important that we work in partnership with parents and carers to achieve this goal.

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 need additional support 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

Dropping off and Picking up

We are always working to reduce congestion on the road outside school as it can become very busy as drop-off and collection times. Residents opposite the school are also affected by driveways being blocked. We ask that parents/carers are mindful of this when collecting students.

Any parents/carers who are collecting their child by car are encouraged to come onto the rear car park and wait for their child to be brought out to them via this route. Students are sent down to the hall at 2:55pm in readiness to be collected at 3pm.

If there is a specific reason whereby parents/carers need to collect students earlier, they are asked to contact the school so arrangements can be made for this.



Extracurricular School Clubs

Extracurricular clubs 22/23

Daye	Year group	Club	Staff	Location
Monday	7,8	Book club from 12.05 pm	Mrs Whelan Smith	Library
Tuesday	9,10,11, 12, 13	Book club from 12.50 pm	Mrs Whelan Smith	Library
Wednesday	9,10,11,12, 13	Diverse social club From 12.50	Mrs Whelan Smith	Library
	9,10,11	Careers Club from 12.50	Mrs Beasley	Room 5
Thursday	9,10,11	Games club from 12.50	Mr Reynolds	Room 26
	10,11 and sixth form	Philosophy/ Discussion Club from 12.50	Mr Cook	Room 24
Friday	9,10,11	Craft and creations club 12.50	Mrs Williams	Room 25

Speech and Language Therapy at Alt Bridge

We are absolutely delighted that we now have speech therapists who are dedicated to Alt Bridge School. This will significantly enhance our offer of support to students and enable us to get a number of speech, language and communication programmes started with students who need targeted support. Our speech therapists will be in contact directly with the parents/carers of individual students who require intensive support.

If you have any queries in relation to speech and language therapy, please contact school.

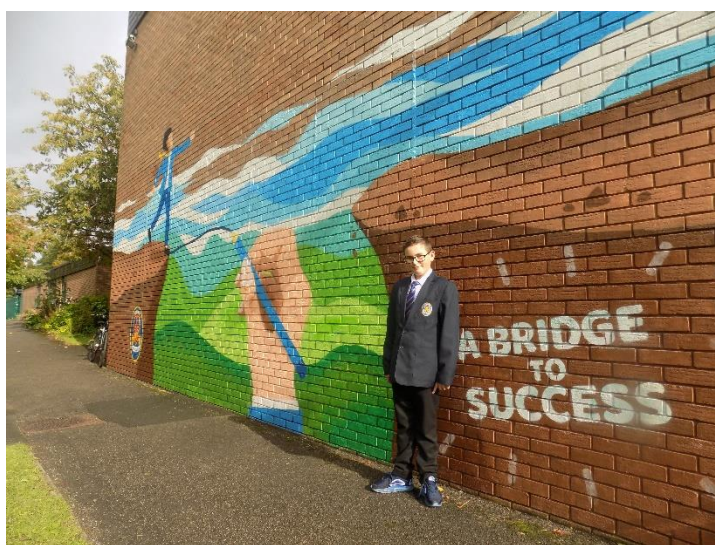


Knowsley Education Awards

We are absolutely delighted to have been shortlisted for three awards in the Knowsley Education Awards, within the following categories;

- School of the Year
- Post-16 provider of the year
- School achievement award

One of our students has also been shortlisted for the School Achievement Award. We wish Liam Harrickie good luck at the awards. Well done Liam!



The awards ceremony will take place at Shakespeare North Playhouse in November. Fingers crossed!