

# Alt Bridge School

Head teacher's Bi-Weekly Newsletter  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024



Dear families,

It is spring term at Alt Bridge but still very much wintertime! The cold weather certainly hasn't stopped our students from enjoying some excellent outdoor learning opportunities at White Mans Dam this week as our first groups in year 11 attended trips there in the last week. These activities will continue across the next three months and will allow students across all year groups to enjoy days out there.

So far this term, we have enjoyed welcoming parents and carers to school for creative enterprise café form coffee mornings and also for our post-16 open evening on the 24<sup>th</sup> January. All events have been a great success! A huge thank you to our families who joined us on site.

This term, we are delighted to be working with the Buzz Hub from St Helens. Buzz Hub is a social enterprise project who work with settings to engage in film making activities. Their members include adults with learning disabilities and alongside their dedicated staff members, they will be working with our students to produce our own film about our school. The film will be available on our website when complete and will be an opportunity for prospective students and families to learn more about what a day in the life of an Alt Bridge student is like!

This term, we will be sending home our mid-year reports to parents and carers. Our approach to assessment has been updated following recent feedback so our progress and assessment leader Mr Randall will be sending a letter home to explain this along with your child's report. We look forward to reporting on their successes to you soon!

In the meantime, I would like to wish everyone a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing on site at any relevant upcoming events!

Best wishes,

Mrs Menagh  
Head teacher

### SOME KEY DATES

#### **FEBRUARY 2024**

**Every Wednesday** – Form 9.3 to attend Incredible Edibles in Court Hey Part for their Mindfulness and Horticulture course.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – Safer Internet Day

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**– Creative Enterprise Café morning for form 10.5

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024** – Break up for Half Term holiday

**HALF TERM BREAK – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024** – Creative Enterprise Café morning for form 10.6

#### **MOBILE PHONE POLICY**

We ask that all parents and carers support school with our mobile phone policy by ensuring that students ***leave mobile phones at home*** when they board transport to school. Only students who are independent travellers would be expected to bring phones to school and these must be handed into our office on arrival.

#### **STAY CONNECTED**

**Would you like to know more about how your child is getting on academically and socially? Look no further!**

Parents and carers have a wealth of information available to them on how their child is getting on in school. We send out letters, newsletters and information via **ParentApp** and we also use **SeeSaw** and **Epraise**. Both of these systems can be accessed by parents and carers.

SeeSaw will show you your child's work in school and comments by teachers. Each student's learning journal is available online. The link to log onto SeeSaw is via our website;

<https://www.altbridgeschool.com/remote-learning-2/online-learning-platforms/>

Epraise is our behaviour for learning system and we give students merits and demerits for behaviour for learning. You will be able to communicate directly with staff via Epraise as well and catch up on how they are getting on in school. The link to log onto Epraise is via our website;

<https://www.altbridgeschool.com/parent-carer-information/epraise/>

## Safer Internet Day



On Tuesday 6th February 2024 we celebrate Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day takes place in February of each year to raise awareness of a safer and better internet for all, and especially for children and young people.

As part of this annual celebration, we encourage everyone - including children and young people, parents and caregivers, teachers and educators, policymakers, industry and others - to join "Together for a better internet".

The UKSIC have created some fantastic resources, which includes top tips, help and advice and a short film to help you start a conversation with your child. Find out more here: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers>

## **What to do if my child keeps asking to play a game, or download an app that I don't know about, what can I do?**

The UKSIC answer this question and provide links to useful websites to help you decide what is suitable for your child: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers/my-child-keeps-asking-to-play-a-game>

## **Do you know who influences your child?**

An influencer is somebody prominent on social media such as YouTube and Instagram, who have a high number of followers. Influencers share their opinions/ideas and may be paid to advertise/promote products through their account. The NSPCC have created an article detailing what you need to know about online influencers here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-05-16-the-influence-of-influencers/>

There are a wide range of parent advice sheets available through the Safer Internet website at: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

## **Unity Through Song Project**

You may remember that our students were part of a project with Sandfield Park School and Hope University last year which involved them recording a song! The song recorded which is called 'You Are Not Alone' is available for purchase through Amazon Music. All money raised will go to supporting people who have been affected by the war in Ukraine. If you have an Amazon Music account, please buy their single for a good cause. It will cost just 99p to download.



## Staff changes

We say a fond farewell to our wonderful Careers Leader Miss Paula Beasley today. Miss Beasley has worked at Alt Bridge for the last five years and has worked hard to ensure that our school offers an excellent careers programme. We wish her the best of luck and thank her for her services to the school. Miss McDaid, Miss Williams and Miss Breed will continue to be there to support our students with careers and ensure that they continue to access a range of fantastic opportunities.

## Epraise Behaviour for Learning Champions

### EPRAISE UPDATES!!

The leading year group for the last week is **year 7!**

The new leading form group for the week is **7.4** with **15,150 points** earned so far this year.

If any parent or carer still needs to log onto the Epraise support or needs support, please contact Mrs Richards via the school office. We will need your email address in order for you to get set up.

Parents/carers can keep up-to-date with their child's merits and points via this system and also send us messages.

## Safeguarding Team

The ***Designated Safeguarding Leader for the school is Miss Richards*** (Assistant Head teacher). We also have four other members of staff who are trained to the level of Designated Safeguarding Leaders;

Mrs Rodgers – Assistant Head teacher

Miss Pritchard – Pupil Welfare Coordinator

Miss Townson – Learning Mentor  
Miss Freeman – Learning Mentor

If you have any safeguarding concerns about a child who attends Alt Bridge, please report them to one of the DSLs above. You can also contact Knowsley Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub on **0151 443 2600**.

**Please note if you believe a child, young person or adult at immediate risk, you should contact the police urgently, CALL 999 EMERGENCY.**