

Alt Bridge School

Head teacher's Newsletter
January 2025



Dear families,

Welcome to a brand-new year and fingers crossed that 2025 is a good one for all! Despite a bumpy start to the year with the weather, we eventually made it back to our usual routine which is where we all like to be!

This newsletter celebrates a number of wonderful things happening at Alt Bridge School and provides some key dates coming up soon.

This month, Alt Bridge School has become an Autism Education Trust training partner for 2025. Through this we will be able to deliver AET training to education professionals in a range of settings. As an AET partner, we also have access to a range of excellent materials and resources to support learners with Autistic Spectrum Conditions.

We are continuing with our focus this year on good health and wellbeing and have some exciting programmes going on to engage our students in healthy living.

At the start of this term, we introduced an extra form time session just after lunch to provide students with an opportunity to check in with their form teacher three times a day which offers further support for pastoral needs.

Please enjoy the news stories in my newsletter. Wishing you all a happy and healthy start to 2025.

Best wishes,

Mrs Menagh
Head teacher

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.

SOME KEY DATES COMING UP

JANUARY 2025

Friday 24th January – Girls football tournament at Greenbank College.

Friday 31st January – Boys Key Stage 3 football tournament at Greenbank College.

FEBRUARY 2025

Friday 7th February – Boys Key Stage 4 football tournament at Greenbank College

Tuesday 11th February – Coffee morning for parents of year 12 students: Parents and carers are invited in to learn more about supported internships.

MARCH 2025

Wednesday 19 March 9.30- 11.30 am - World of work event for Year 9-13 pupil`s further details to follow.

Post-16 Shakespeare North Playhouse Work Experience Programme

Between February and May pupils in year 12/13 have a fantastic opportunity to work with Shakespeare North Playhouse. The programme will be delivered by experts in the field of theatre, employability, communication and problem solving to help build confidence and develop new skills.

Parents / carers taking part will shortly receive a letter inviting them to an information session on Friday 31st January 10am - 10.20 am in School to find out more.

**SHAKESPEARE
NORTH
PLAYHOUSE**

**Education
Partner**

Rights Respecting School



The equalities team of staff and pupils are making good progress towards achieving the prestigious UNICEF Rights respecting Gold Award with a judgement due on 1st April.

This is in recognition of having the rights of the child fully embedded in the School. Pupils will be working on creating their own class rights charter and exploring the concept of dignity through P4C sessions. Further updates to follow

Bite Back Campaign

Alt Bridge are the first School in Knowsley to take part in the Bite Back programme that empowers pupils to think about healthy eating. Over the coming months a group of pupils will create a social action project that can have a real impact in helping to make healthy choices.



There will be a celebration event in the summer term for parents. Further updates to follow.

Alpacas!

Year 8 pupils recently went on an enrichment trip to an Alpaca Farm in Burscough.

Pupils had the opportunity to take the Alpacas for a walk, feed them and learn more about their care. This was a fantastic experience for our pupils and staff.



The owner Natterjack's Alpacas Farm was very complimentary about the way our students conducted themselves on the visit. The rest of Year 8 will visit the Alpacas in late February more details to follow.

Road Safety Year 7

The Box clever Theatre company came into school to perform a road safety play for all our Year 7 pupils. The director for road safety in the borough was in attendance as well as a group from Merseyside Police. They were all incredibly impressed by the excellent engagement of our pupils.



Recent Kindness Champions

At the end of last term, our wellbeing champions were:

Michael and Riley from Dragon class

'A double nomination for playing well with students from Brooklyn class and looking out for them'

Mollie from Post-16

'For greeting staff every morning with such positivity and calm words. This really sets them up for the day!'

Annie from year 7

'For being so kind to fellow peers in her class and showing her friends how to sew'

Joel from Post-16

'For amazing courtesy in offering a chair to a visiting parent whilst waiting in reception.'

Staying Safe

Pupils in Year 7 enjoyed working with Knowsley Council on an exciting workshop on staying safe in the community and the dangers of gangs and knife crime.

Pupils used award winning age-appropriate interactive headsets to make decisions in real life situations.



STAY CONNECTED

Would you like to know more about how your child is getting on academically and socially? Stay connected!

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**. All of these systems can be accessed by parents and carers.

Safeguarding Team

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

Mrs Murphy – Assistant Head teacher
Miss Pritchard – Pupil Welfare Manager
Mr Randall – Assistant Head teacher
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.