

Alt Bridge School

Head teacher's Newsletter
March 2026



National Autistic Society
Autism Specialist Award 2023



Dear families,

This is a long newsletter as we have a lot of catching up to do! This term has been a very challenging one for our school community and I am exceptionally proud of the way in which we have all supported each other in facing these difficulties. The challenges started with a period of closures and partial closures due to our issues with heating and electricity. If you have visited the site recently, you will know that we have continued to be affected by the ongoing work on site but it has been amazing to see how well our students and staff have adjusted to the changes and managed to continue to learn, progress and thrive at Alt Bridge School.

Tragically, this term we lost our beloved year 11 student Lloyd Newcombe, who passed away following a severe asthma attack on the 18th February 2026. Lloyd was an exceptional and unique person, who will forever be missed and remembered here at Alt Bridge as a student who made our school a better place, every day they were here with us. We continue to fundraise for the Asthma and Lung UK charity in Lloyd's name and have already raised £544. The generosity of students, staff and parents in donating to this important cause, alongside the messages of support have been heartwarming. We are so proud of the way in which his closest friends have responded in coming together to share in their collective grief and to honour Lloyd's memory. Their contributions through written messages and the preparation of a song which will soon be ready to share, have demonstrated not only what amazing young people they are but also a maturity and sensitivity which far exceeds most individuals their age.

As we look ahead to summer term, there are some further changes coming our way when our post-16 learners will move off-site to our brand new provision in Kirkby. This week, we briefed parents, carers and students who arrived for our focused afternoon and shared some further information. This newsletter includes more artist impression images of the new centre. We are

aiming to move over to the new centre sometime in mid-to-late June and after the year 13 students who are sitting exams have completed their exam timetables. We await further information and confirmation of dates and will share this with parents and carers as soon as we know more.

I would like to wish all of our students, staff and families a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

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 IN SUMMER TERM 2026

APRIL & MAY 2026

Monday 13th April – FIRST DAY OF SUMMER TERM

**Parents and carers will be warmly invited to join us for the class special celebration events. More details to follow for each year group

Wednesday 22nd-24th April – Key Stage 3 residential to Lakeside

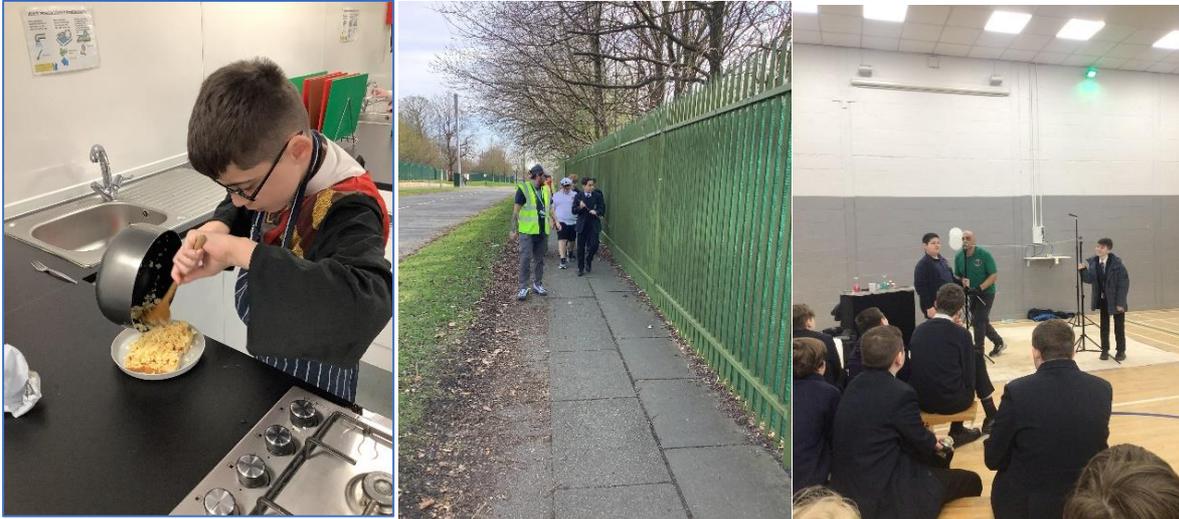
Tuesday 28th April and Wednesday 29th April – School being assessed for National Autistic Society award.

Monday 4th May – May bank holidays. School closed.

Week of 25th-29th May – MAY HALF TERM. School closed.

Life at Alt Bridge Spring Term 2026!

There have been a range of enjoyable and educational activities for students throughout the spring term 2026. Here are just some examples....



Cooking skills, travel training and bubble-blowing workshops!



Year 9 Animate 'Friendship Focused' workshops and team building!



More Bubbles, World Book Day and reward trips!



Cinema Visits and the Year 7 Retreat at Lowe House



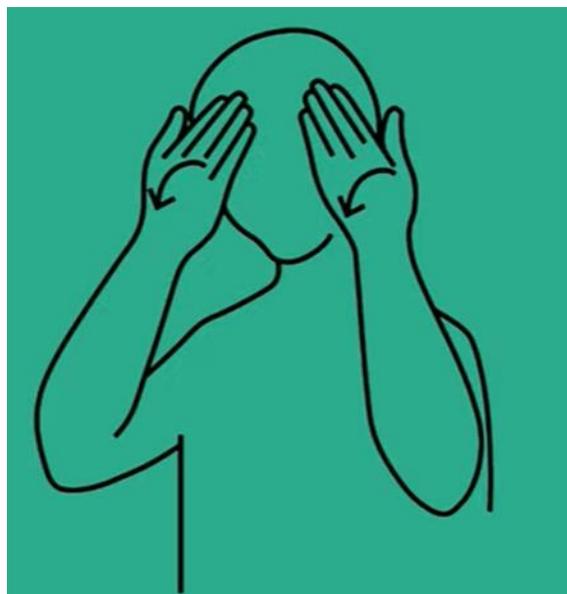
Work experience opportunities and spiritual retreats!



Bubble workshop training for staff, forest school at Bowring Park

Makaton Sign of the Week

Our Makaton sign of the week is the respect – one of our key school values.



Children's Right of the week

Article 25

If you live in care or away from home, you have the right to have where you live looked at regularly, to make sure it is the best place for you.

Career's Team Updates

It has been a busy and successful term for our careers programme, with students across all year groups engaging in diverse "world of work" opportunities.

Hands-on Experience & Work Placements

Year 11 and Post-16 students have excelled in external placements, ranging from retail at the YMCA Belle Vale and The Beatles Story, to roles in fisheries, construction, and technology. We are incredibly proud of the "fantastic" feedback received from our partner employers. Meanwhile, our construction

students have begun a three-stage site visit with Sterling Services at our new Post-16 site, gaining invaluable insight into the industry.

Creative Workshops & Team Building

Outreach remains a priority, with students enjoying regular Forest School sessions at Bowring Park and employability workshops at Shakespeare North Playhouse. In early March, 30 students visited Gulliver's World for a "Dragons' Den" challenge, pitching innovative theme park designs to resort staff. This creative spirit continues with our Post-16 QVC project; we wish them luck for their pop-up sales event on 22nd April!

Looking Ahead

As we approach the summer term, transition visits are well underway to help our Year 11 and Post-16 leavers prepare for college. It has been wonderful to see them building confidence and even reconnecting with former students during these visits. We wish all our students moving on in September every success.



A letter to Lloyd

One of our year 11 students Mikey Bracken, who is a budding young author who recently published a book through Amazon, has been adding to a memory book which starts with a letter to Lloyd. He was happy for this letter to be shared in this newsletter and I think he articulates his thoughts better than the author of this newsletter possible could;

Lloyd,

If you can somehow see this from whatever version of the afterlife you are in, just know, we all miss you and I don't think that'll change any time soon.

I still hear your laugh at every joke the class make, all of those arrows pointing at my torn streets and I can still imagine you drawing.

Everything feels off now. The form, without you sat at the front table. The end of the day without your rants, without hearing 'bus 1' and you triple checking no one lied to you.

I know Maths will feel silent without you shouting 'Done!' the second you put your pencil down. I'll forever miss having someone to complain about the teacher with, and I know that'll be even more obvious when that seat next to me is empty.

Honestly, today we spent half an hour telling your stories and we've barely even scratched the surface.

That's why this is here. To tell those stories, to give everyone a reminder of the difference you made in everyone's life, but knowing you were the main event of every day in this school, I'll likely need more than one notebook.

So...as much as I hate to say these words, goodbye Lloyd and I hope my efforts to remember you do you justice. Rest in Peace.

By Mikey Bracken

Asthma and Lunk UK Fundraising!

Our fundraising activities continue to raise money for Asthma and Lung UK in Lloyd's memory and we have so far raised £544 and we are so pleased with this progress but we are not stopping there. There have been a number of students who have taken part in sponsorship activities to raise money and we wanted to shed light on two students who have worked particularly hard:

Thomas in 7.1 has raised £47!

Gerard in 8.6 has raised £100!

Well done to these two students and to others who continue to work on fundraising.

Sporting Activities Updates

Swimming Gala

We took 21 students to the Annual Schools Swimming Gala held at Wavertree Aquatics Centre which was a record number of students, and easily more than any other school! Their performance, attitude and behaviour were outstanding, and we were able to achieve 7 gold medals! Well done to all students and to Mr Evans for organising such a large team!



Matball Competition

We took 14 girls to a Matball Competition and performed extremely well against a large number of schools, achieving second and third place. Well done to all the girls who took part!

Forest School update

Whilst we are waiting for the creation of our new Forest School, we have been very lucky to be given the use of a Forest School and Gardening area on Bowring Park Golf Course by a local Community Interest Company called GROW. Many of our students are now accessing these areas on a weekly basis as well as taking part in nature walks provided by local rangers and volunteers. Well done to all of our students who represent the school so amazingly in terms of their attitude and behaviour, and many thanks to Mrs Austin and Miss Donaldson who work so hard as the Forest School Leaders!

Coming up.....Athletics (May)

This is the most popular event of the sporting calendar for us and we are looking to take a large athletic squad to the Annual Athletics Competition at Wavertree Athletics Stadium in May. We are looking for short and medium distance runners, as well as throwers and jumpers - if this is you, please let Mr Lamb, Mr Evans and Miss Thomas know when we return after Easter!

Wishing everyone at Alt Bridge a very Happy Easter from the Physical Development Team!

J Lamb

New post-16 Centre in Kirkby – What will it look like??

This week, more information was shared with parents and carers of students in post-16 and those in year 11 who will be joining post-16 in September. The below images are the designer's impressions of what the centre will look like once complete. As soon as it is safe to do so, we will organise some visits for students and staff to see the site in development. In the meantime, I can share the images below and let you know more about the facilities which will include:

- A private and secure car park with drop-off areas for transport
- Five classrooms fully equipped with technology for teaching and learning
- A private outdoor space
- Quiet study areas
- A domestic science area for life skills lessons
- A teaching kitchen for catering sessions
- A canteen for students to eat lunches in and engage in social time
- A careers session room
- Two intervention or meeting room spaces
- A staff room
- A reception with visitor area
- Offices for staff



Corridor area with quiet study spaces and three intervention/meeting rooms



Example of one of the five classrooms to access to the private outdoor area



The outdoors garden area



The domestic science area for life skills activities



The canteen for students to eat lunches brought over from our main site



The teaching kitchen

The centre will have excellent links to local businesses and work experience opportunities in the community as well as easy access to transport for travel training. There is also a nearby gym for access to healthy living activities. We look forward to building these links to ensure our students benefit from the connections they can make in further their preparation for adulthood.

Neurodiversity celebration week

For Neurodiversity celebration week in March this year, students learned more about different neurodivergent conditions and we have a specific focus on Down Syndrome, taking part in awareness raising for national Down Syndrome Awareness day.

For fun, relaxation and mindfulness, we welcome Bubbles Paris into school to deliver a range of bubble-making workshops which fascinated students of all ages and abilities.



Our learners also engaged in a specific Neurodiversity art project, producing some amazing pieces. Pupils explored neurography, a calming drawing activity that combines art and thinking.

They created their own unique designs using flowing lines, shapes and colour to express their thoughts and feelings.

This mindful activity helped pupils to relax, feel calm and enjoy a quiet moment of creativity. It also encouraged them to express themselves in a different way and feel proud of their individual artwork. Here are some examples of the stunning art work produced by our students:



STAY CONNECTED



We have launched parent and carer logins for Provision Map. This is an online location for your child's Individual Education Plans and support plans. You will also find information on here regarding provisions and also specialists reports. Please contact your child's form teacher if you missed the email invitation so you can get set up to access this portal.

Safeguarding Team

The ***Designated Safeguarding Leader for the school is Miss 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 Coordinator

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.