



Autumn Term Edition 2017

Head Teacher - Mrs S. Kulas
Deputy Head - Mr J. Morris
Assistant Head—Mrs D. Silverton

Head Teachers Comments

There are many changes ahead at Bridge as we welcome a new Headteacher, Mr Andrew Burton and a deputy Headteacher, Mr James Morris. I am sure they will bring a wealth of expertise and a whole new vision for Bridge Short Stay School. Bridge is an amazing place to work and I am sure the students will enjoy new ideas and approaches to their education.

It is therefore with a great deal of sadness that I write my last newsletter at Bridge. I have been Headteacher, since September 2009 and can honestly say I have enjoyed my whole time here. It has not been without its challenge and there have been many ups and downs along the way but working with the students and seeing them prosper and grow is what makes it all worthwhile. Many of the staff have been here a while too and all work tirelessly in the best interests of the students here, attempting to see what works and what will inspire them to go on and gain excellent results at GCSE or move on to new mainstream schools and succeed. We play just a small part in the education of your children but each piece of the jigsaw is important to ensure they reach their full potential.

Can I finish by saying thank you to each and every one of you for all the support over the past few years, I am sure that this support will continue for the new senior management team and I look forward to hearing about ongoing success at Bridge.

Finally may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

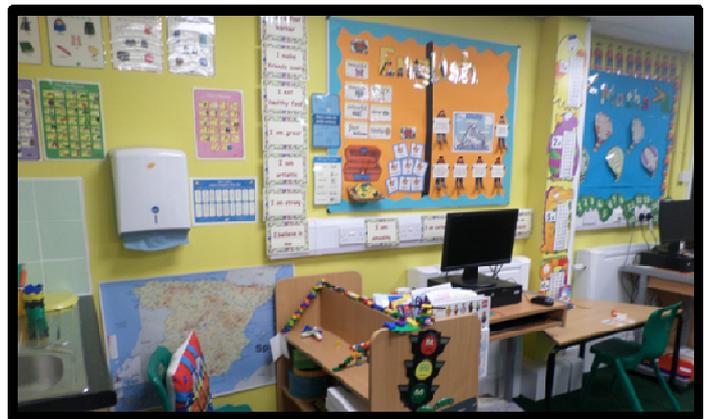
SUE KULAS—HEADTEACHER

DEAR PARENTS & CARERS,

The festive season is fast approaching as I write this letter, I believe at this point that there are 40 days to Christmas and 5 more Mondays at work! This time of the year anxieties are heightened, families are busy and children only concerned about what might arrive on December 25th. It is important to keep calm and remember the only really important things about the festive season are the people we care about, not how much money we spend or how much food we have to eat. I for one am always guilty of pretending I can create Jamie Oliver/Mary Berry type dinners when my family would be perfectly happy with the average Sunday roast, let us all try to treat each other with kindness and enjoy spending time together.

Following the success of a pilot scheme introduced into Bridge back in January 2017, we are proud to announce that we are now officially re-categorised as an aged 4-16 years provision. You may have noticed the ongoing transformation of our school with two new Primary classrooms, new security gates and an extensive overhaul of our outdoor learning areas. We have welcomed a new team of Primary specialists and also an additional minibus with dedicated drivers and escorts. Bridge aim to provide support for young learners with challenging behaviour from as far afield as Rugeley, Cannock and Hednesford in a “short stay” setting for whom mainstream schooling has proven difficult.

Introducing you to **Matisse & Rothko...**



We are proud to say that our pupils have adapted to the changes that have occurred within our newly introduced Primary Provision.

As there are continual changes, with pupils entering and leaving, each child has taken it upon themselves to help support each other and staff to welcome and integrate pupils into their new settings –Rules and Routines.



The Farm

The children love taking care of the animals in the farm and they are superb!

The children have a responsibility to ensure that the animals are taken care of and we keep our farm nice and clean.

They help Cath and Zac, the farm managers, to ensure the animals are fed and all duties are maintained.



Remembrance Day

The children paid their respects on Remembrance Day.

Our students were informed as to why we pay our respects to those members of the Forces who have died in the line of duty during the First World War.

The children quietly sat for the minute silence and worked together to create beautiful poppies and completed tasks for our display board.



Topic

Matisse have participated in very exciting activities and have tried their ultimate best to produce outstanding work.

This term we are focusing on the subject topic - 'Sparkling Lights'.

Here we are learning about different celebrations that have taken or are to take place. We have already learnt so much about

Diwali - The festival of Light.
Guy Fawkes - Why we celebrate and have fireworks on November 5th, and

of course our favourite time of year, Christmas!

We will be making many decorations, lights and creative activities for the upcoming build up towards the day.



Targets



Matisse have taken it within their stride to understand new rules and target points.

Across our Primary Provision we have created Star Charts that record children's behaviour and task achievements.

All children work very hard to achieve 10 stars in total in order to received a certificate at the end of the day and a reward out of the Friday box depending on whether they have kept up their behaviour all week.

Well Done

Well done to all primary children at The Bridge for trying their best to improve and work hard in managing their behaviour.

We hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and a lovely New Year.

See you in 2018!

All the best

The Primary Team



On Thursday 16th November students visited the NEC Skills show in Birmingham where they had access to look at a variety of career choices. The event was interactive and was attended by many other students from around the country. The Skills Show gave students an insight into their future career aspirations.



VISIT TO SHUGBOROUGH HALL

In November we had an educational visit to Shugborough Hall. The main mansion house was closed for renovations, but students explored the farmhouse where they got to see how people lived and worked in the 19th Century. They even got to dress up in traditional farmworker costumes. Students explored the grounds of Shugborough Estate and found many hidden follies and monuments.

We now have a National Trust membership so we will be visiting other nearby historical venues to enhance the curriculum.



It certainly has been a very hectic term across the whole school. Students have been busy with a whole host of assessments, activities and achievements. Early in the term a few of our Year 11 boys successfully completed the very challenging Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. More recently our curriculum has taken everyone out on “learning beyond the classroom” activities ranging from caving, climbing, sailing, mountain biking, golfing, fishing and bush-craft. Students have shown a great deal of resilience learning valuable life skills and experiencing new pursuits. Well done to all the students who have completed mock maths and English exams over the last couple of weeks. Exams can be stressful but you all tried very hard with surprising results. Keep up the hard work.....

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THE WORK & ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITH BRIDGE STUDENTS OVER THE LAST TERM.....



On Wednesday the 11th of October the students from The Bridge Centre participated in a table tennis tournament with the students from the Burton PRU which took place at the Bridge.

They tried very hard against Burton PRU, and Jack De'Ath made some extremely good smashes and top spins.

The Bridge Short Stay School team included: Jack De'Ath, Jack Lamb, Ethan Willets, Owen Austin and Jack Gair. Jack De'Ath got the FIRST place and Jack Lamb won the runners up group. SECOND place went to Barney from Burton PRU.

Well done to all the boys for fair play.



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Expedition Report

Start date: 02/10/2017 End date: 04/10/2017—Location: Peak District - 4 Year 11 students from the Bridge Centre embarked on their Bronze D of E qualifying expedition, Sam Daw, John Wraxton, Aiden Murtagh and Owen Austin.



We left school on Monday at 8:30am on the minibus and headed to the Longnor Village car park. Students were briefed by their leader and set off to walk to the Hulme End campsite.

The team worked well over the two days and ensured that they maintained a high standard of work both during the walking and the camping. They packed their rucksacks efficiently and were well prepared for the expedition. The group morale was high and they interacted well with the locals. The positive attitude shone through throughout the expedition and was displayed at the end during the debrief. The camp site was well cleaned and whilst cooking there were good standards of health and safety, with the food being produced to a satisfying standard. The navigation was good and the team managed to complete their route within the specified time limits and without making any serious mistakes.



Everyone worked well within the group ensuring that all tasks were completed correctly. The students demonstrated a sound knowledge of the award and their positive attitude shone through.

 THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



Learning Beyond the Classroom

This half term the school has adopted a different approach to outdoor education. We have now organised a whole day's activity once a week for students to take part in. So far the students have tried their hand at: mountain biking, archery, climbing and bush craft.

Bush craft was the first activity that the students took part in. This was at Chasewater and involved learning how to prepare and light a fire using flint and cotton wool or even wire wool and a battery. The students did really well at this and used their fires to cook popcorn and toast bread and marshmallows. This proved to be very popular.

The mountain biking activity started off at Milford Common near Stafford. The route took the students up Sherbrook Valley on Cannock Chase. The students learned technical aspects of mountain biking and developed their endurance and handling skills. The trip ended at Marquis Drive visitor centre three hours later. The students did well and everybody managed to cope with the steady incline and tough terrain.

The final activity involved climbing and then archery. The students really excelled at these two activities. The climbing wall proved to be no obstacle to them despite the freezing conditions. We then moved inside and after learning how to use a bow and arrow the students proved to be excellent shots.





Fishing 4 Therapy

Mr Pettitt

Since my last issue in July the fishing has boomed. This term many students have had some big catches! Jack Lamb set a new Bridge record of 39 fish in a session, with at least 20 being Carp. Darby Pritchard (below right) caught this lovely carp of about 5 or 6 pounds, he jointly holds the Bridge weight record for a single fish along with Jack Lamb, Vincent Summers and Jay Griffin.

As the winter drew in, the fish have begun lying on the bottom and stopped feeding. Students have shown great resolve, having to wait longer for a fish and deal with cold weather conditions including below freezing temperatures, torrential rain and high winds.

I would like to do a special shout out to Jack Lamb and Ethan Willetts, who have stuck at it and never missed a week, they both show amazing patience, interest, and good manners every week. They are an absolute pleasure to take.





During this term some students from the Bridge Centre have been participating in golf at the Lichfield Golf & Country Club driving range.

The training is being supplied by a qualified coach Ian Jones. The students improved their swing technique, coordination and accuracy.





As part of our extra-curricular learning 4 students attended the Good Food Show at the NEC Arena. This gave them the opportunity to engage with the general public and try new and exciting foods that they would not normally have the chance to eat. The day started off with staff and students being dropped off by our mini bus driver at the NEC. Once there we booked in at the registration desk and discussed our plan of action for the day.

Staff and pupils walked around the area together and shared the many varied and exciting foods on offer. We got to witness many interesting demonstrations from celebrity chefs and pupils took time out to ask engaging questions to lots of stalls holders who were exhibiting their products. Another highlight of the day for the pupils was when we came across the mini remote control cars, all pupils were really engaged and asked if we could have these back at school.

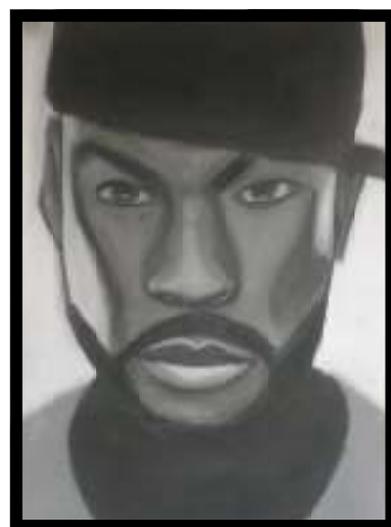
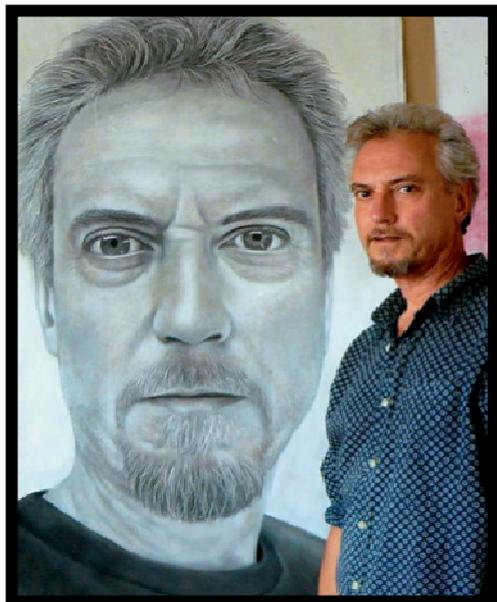
The final part of the day was to collect our goody bags and get back to school by catching the train. The journey home was relaxed and enjoyable with everyone chatting about what they had seen and what they had got in their goody bags. A tiring but enjoyable day was had by all.



Statement from Hannah Brazier

"The Good Food Show was interesting. I enjoyed being with my friends and trying lots of different foods. My favourite thing I tried was the Cherry Midnight drink."





Students from the Bridge were fortunate enough to have expert tuition from professional portrait artist John Denaro. John started his career as a pavement artist and developed a love for working with chalk pastels. Under John's guidance students produced their own large scale pastel portraits with amazing results.



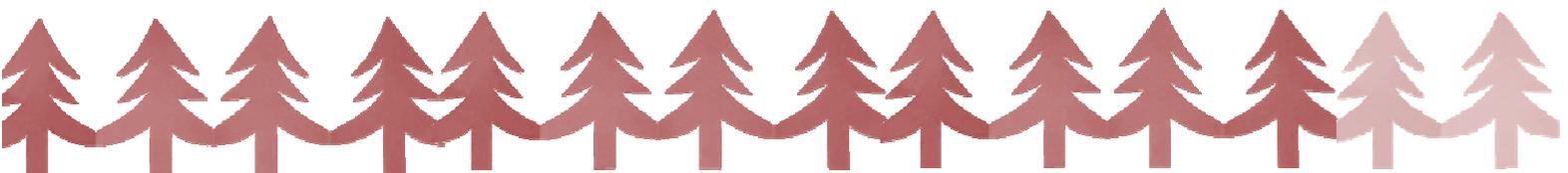
John Denaro Visit



EQUINE EXPERIENCE

Some of our students at The Bridge work well in alternative environments to the school and Hawthorn Farm are a classic example of this.

Anthony Greenhill started doing a grooming course for six weeks and has progressed onto doing a qualification at Hawthorn Farm on a Horse Care Course (Level 1). He is interested in a possible future as a farrier and has shown a natural talent for working with horses. Michelle Howlett (Farm Manager) is really impressed how Anthony has progressed in his skills and confidence caring for the horses.



On BRIDGE Farm

During the summer Zac, one of the farm managers finished the new paddock fencing. Jack Lamb helped to add the finishing touches to the paddock housing. Four female sheep are now residents at the Bridge centre farm and they all enjoy being hand fed daily by the students



Key stage one and two had a very successful crop of corn, cabbage, strawberries and curly kale this year. The farm animals have had a varied diet all summer which included all crops grown.

The Bridge Centre Farm is now an associate of FACE Farming and Countryside. FACE's advocacy, advice and partnership projects help the agriculture and education sectors create an environment in which learning about food and farming is valued and effective.



Zac and Vinny clipped the ladies wings to stop the ladies getting up to too much mischief whilst they run about free range each day. Many of the students like to come out first thing in the morning to collect the eggs for cooking or to take home.



The black booted bantams enjoy cuddles with students of all ages.

The ducks are still practicing being calm when handled by people but they are improving their confidence slowly.



Key stage one and two working as a team to clean out the small chickens.





Here are some of the younger students splitting large job into smaller tasks and working as a team to clean out the rabbits.

Cleaning out and handling the rabbits is still a firm favourite among key stage one and two.



The latest project this winter is to dig the fish pond deeper and bigger to allow us to have fish and encourage more natural pond life to the area.





Autumn Term has seen quite a few changes at Bridge and it wouldn't be right not to mention these two busy gentlemen. Having sourced an additional minibus it has been necessary to welcome two new additions to the staff team in the form of drivers Andy and Nigel, who, together with chaperones are responsible for the safe movement of pupils to and from school and also out and about for the numerous offsite activities offered to Bridge students. The minibuses have never been busier!



IS YOUR CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

Apply online at: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/educationalawardsbenefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply.aspx>



Bridge School Terms 2018

2017-2018 Academic Year	First day	Last day
INSET DAY WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2018		
Spring Term 1	Thursday 4th January 2018	Thursday 15th February 2018
INSET DAY FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2018		
HALF TERM	Monday 19th February 2018	Friday 23rd February 2018
Spring Term 2	Monday 26th February 2018	Thursday 29th March 2018
EASTER HOLIDAYS	Friday 30th March 2018	Wednesday 11th April 2018
Summer Term 1	Thursday 12th April 2018	Friday 25th May 2018
MAY DAY Monday 7th May 2018		
HALF TERM	Monday 28th May 2018	Friday 1st June 2018
Summer Term 2	Monday 4th June 2018	Friday 20th July 2018
2018-2019 Academic Year	First day	Last day
INSET DAY MONDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2018		
Autumn Term 1	Tuesday 4th September 2018	Friday 26th October 2018

**Please
Note**

Start Time on Thursday 4th January 2017 is 10:00am

Reminder to parents

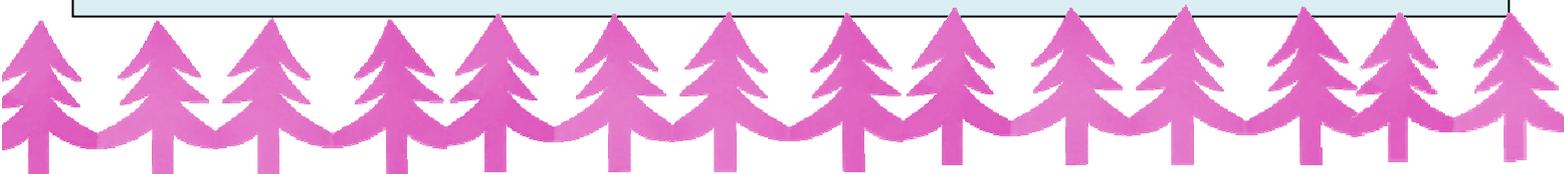
In case of an emergency with your child

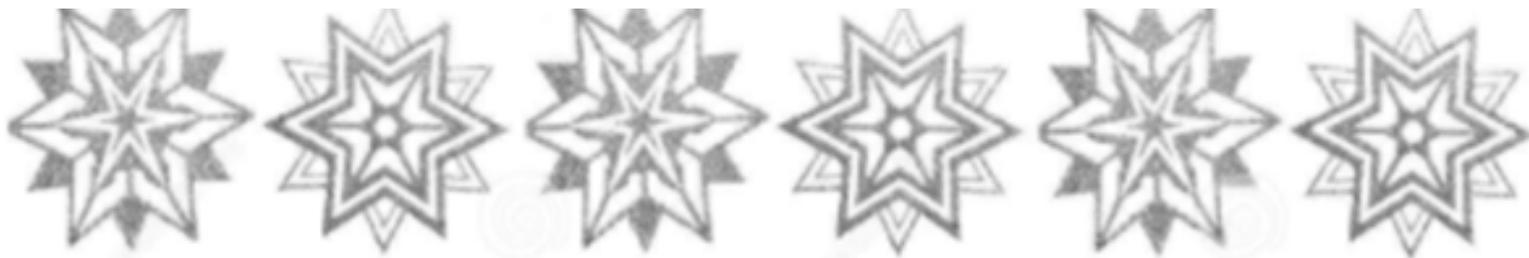
If you change your address/telephone number (especially mobile number), please advise school so that we can change details on our computer system

Student Medication

If the school holds medication for your child to self-administer, could you please ensure that these medications are kept up to date. If your child is unable to self-administer the medication, a parental agreement form, which may be picked up from the school office, must be completed.

If unsure please telephone Mrs Abell on 01543 255872





School Emergency Closure Procedures

I would like to draw your attention to the procedures we employ in the event of a school closure as a result of severe weather. It is important to point out that we make every effort to open and remain open throughout the winter months. We appreciate that closure impacts on students' learning and parents' childcare arrangements. However, we also recognize our responsibility towards the safety of students and adults onsite and whilst journeying to and from school.

The decision making process we undertake can be found on our school's website

www.Bridge.staffs.sch.uk

In order to communicate as quickly and effectively as we can, we intend putting notification about closure on the Staffordshire County Council website as detailed below

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures/schoolclosurelist

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/mobile/Mobile-Menu.aspx

as well as via a text message to parents, Please make sure all emergency contact numbers are up to date. Unless you hear from us that we are closed, please make the assumption each day that we are open as usual.

Finally please bear with us. Conditions are changeable, and decision making can be problematic. There may be times when we have to close during the day as a result of deterioration in the weather. I would like to reassure you that we will not send pupils off site unless and until we are confident they can arrive home safely.

Yours in partnership

Sue Kulas





Staffordshire County Council,
2, Staffordshire Place,
Tipping Street,
Stafford
ST16 2DH

Email: paul.senior@staffordshire.gov.uk

Date: 21st September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Changes to Penalty Notices for Absence from School.

Ensuring your child has access to a good education is very important to us.

A key part of this is for all children and young people to regularly attend school, as this gives each learner the best chance to achieve their full potential. In light of the recent Isle of Wight court case and the subsequent Supreme Court ruling on school absences, we wanted to clarify our position for parents where there may be the potential for any ambiguity and to also ensure we are fully compliant with legal requirements.

As a result, we have made a few changes to our previous guidance to schools, parents and carers regarding absence from school. The new guidance will come into force from **1 January 2018** and is detailed below:

Penalty Notice for leave of absence (holiday) in term time.

From 1st January 2018 any period of unauthorised leave may result in you as a parent receiving a penalty notice fine. Your head teacher will continue to be the only person able to authorise leave in term time, but this will apply only in exceptional circumstances. Any unauthorised absence will be referred by your head teacher to the local authority.

Penalty Notice for persistent lateness

Previously a pupil had to achieve 20 unauthorised late marks before a penalty notice warning could be issued. **This has now changed to 10 marks**, and late marks do not have to be one after the other in order for the penalty notice to be issued. You are therefore encouraged where possible to ensure your child attends school on time. However, if your child is late you must inform the school of the reason(s) why, as they may be able to offer you some form of advice or support.

Period of time used to measure persistent absence and lateness

If your child has had 10 days unauthorised absence or is late 10 times over a twelve week period, you may receive a penalty warning notice and also potentially a fine. These changes have been agreed with local head teachers and have been implemented to help promote an support good attendance to school. Further details and a copy of the revised Code of Conduct for issuing Penalty Notices can be obtained from the council's website www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education.

The vast majority of children and young people in Staffordshire have an excellent record of school attendance, and we recognise the efforts of so many parents to ensure their children attend school regularly.

The Local Authority will continue to take appropriate action for absences during term time when we are notified by head teachers, both to support them in their role and to ensure local children can continue to achieve the best possible outcomes from attending local schools

Yours faithfully,

Paul Senior,

Head of Vulnerable Learner Services 0-25

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ON SITE. PLEASE BEAR
WITH US WHILE WE
UNDER-GO MUCH
NEEDED REPAIRS
TO
ROOF**

Safeguarding

www.net-aware.org.uk

This gives an updated list of the ‘in’ apps and web sites that young people may choose to access. By highlighting this we hope that parents will be able to look on the website periodically and help keep themselves informed of new developments.

