

The Bridge Centre *CHRISTMAS* Newsletter



DEAR PARENTS & CARERS,

Well what a term it has been! In fact, what a year in general! It is nearly a year since I took over as Headteacher at the Bridge Centre and I cannot believe time has passed so quickly. I feel extremely privileged to be Headteacher and serve the all the incredible and talented students at the Bridge Centre.

Since starting in January 2018 there have been many changes at the School and we are now starting to see the impact of many of those changes. Our new curriculum is at the heart of student offer and underpins our vision of 'setting no limits' for our learners. The mix of core GCSE subjects such as Maths and English coupled with more vocational subjects such as Creative Media, Sport Science and Child Development give our students the opportunity to progress to college courses post 16.

Our students have experienced lots of great activities this term. We have taken part in outdoor events such as orienteering and building dens in Forest School. Students have regularly attended Mixed Martial Arts sessions in Burton with many making excellent progress with their belts. We have played (and won!) in our local PRU table tennis tournament and our girls are attending weekly dance sessions in Lichfield.

Many of our Year 10 and 11 students are undertaking Work Experience and this is proving very successful. We have students working at the local golf course, football club and car valeting company. We believe that work related learning is a vital part of learning skills outside of the classroom and is something that we actively encourage.

Autumn Term Edition 2018
Head Teacher - Mr A. Burton
Deputy Head - Mr J. Morris
Assistant Head—Mrs A. Punnett

Head Teachers Comments

In November, Ofsted paid us a visit! This was a one-day short inspection and, as you can imagine, was a nerve racking experience for both staff and students alike! The inspection confirmed that we are on the right track and resulted in no change to the 'Good' grade that the School received in October 2013. The inspection highlighted many areas of good practice, not least in the area of safeguarding, which is always at the forefront of everything we do at the School. If you haven't read the report already, I would encourage you to do so, as it shows the immense amount of progress we have made over the last few months. We know we still have lots to do and we have been set targets by the inspectors (who will be back for a full inspection during the Summer term!) These targets are:

- to improve the attendance and punctuality of students
- to improve the standard of teaching and learning

We have already started to put in plans to help improve teaching and learning at the School but require your help when it comes to attendance and punctuality. It is imperative that your child attends School regularly and also arrives on time. There are some statistics that you will find at the back of this Newsletter showing the impact that poor attendance can have on student outcomes. We are always here to help and we have the right people in place to help your child if they are experiencing issues or problems. However, we need the pupils to be here if we are going to help and our current attendance figure of 70% is still too low.

As of January there will be some further changes highlighted below:

- All students will be expected in School by **9.15am** at the latest. Tutor time will start at 9.15am and last until 9.30am.
- We have experienced an unusual spike in the number of pupils who smoke. We would like to reiterate that smoking is not allowed anywhere on school site. If students are caught smoking on school site they will be issued with a fixed term exclusion. Similarly, if your child requires help with stopping smoking we have support facilities in place to help (please see Mr Morris)

We also say goodbye to two long serving members of staff. Mr Wade, our Maths teacher, is leaving us after 5 1/2 years at the Bridge. In addition, Mr Halls is leaving us and I know that you will join me wishing them both well in their future ventures.

Christmas can sometimes be a very difficult time for our young people at School. We currently have over 50 students on roll, many of whom are extremely vulnerable and who may not have good experiences of the Christmas period. Please take care over the festive period and look after each other. We will be back on **Monday 7th January at 9am** and look forward to seeing all of our students then

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

ANDREW BURTON—HEADTEACHER



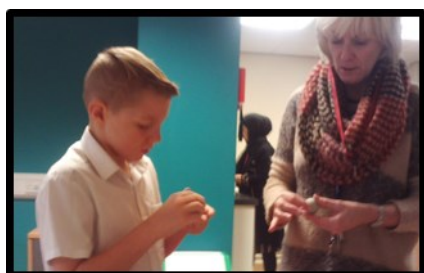
Toys Through Time



This term we have been learning about how toys have changed through time. We looked at our favourite toys; here is K.T. with his Omnidroid toy, from 'The Incredibles' which sticks to the windows. We invited Mrs Abell into class to talk about her favourite toy which is this lovely doll named Elizabeth. We asked lots of questions about what games Mrs Abell played with when she was a child too.



Matisse & Rothko...



We have been learning about the properties of 3D shapes this term. You can see L.D. here making playdough; we went on to use it to mould various 3D shapes. M.H. is listening and watching carefully to mould shapes with different properties. L.D. is playing a matching game here to identify and name shapes using their properties.





We have been making the classroom look festive and writing letters to Santa



Well Done

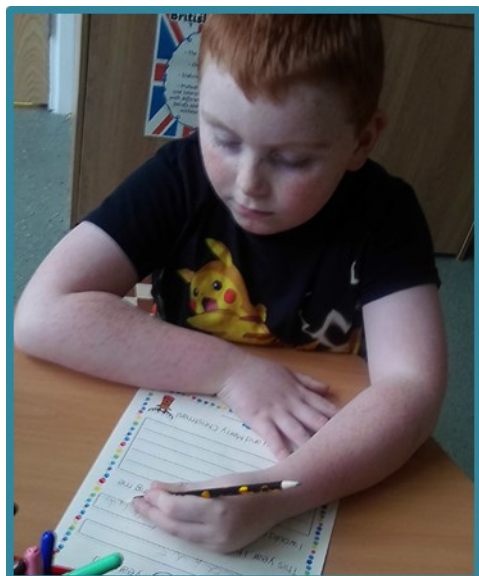
Well done to all primary children at The Bridge for trying their best to improve and work hard in managing their behaviour.

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

See you in 2019!

All the best

The Primary Team Staff





Prince's Trust

Remembrance



D.S. has been involved on numerous visits to Darwin Court Care Home during the Autumn Term as part of his Prince's Trust Award.

During his visits D.S. has shown a lot of empathy for the residents by engaging them in conversations about past experiences and showing polite respect for their feelings at all times.

He recently attended a Remembrance Memorial Service held at Darwin Court for the residents which was on Saturday 10th November 2018. This was a non-school day which meant that he went voluntarily during his own free time. After the service D.S. helped serve the residents with refreshments and spent time engaging them in conversations.



The Bridge Centre would like to thank Darwin Court Care Home for enabling our students to speak to their residents, which has helped greatly with their education and social skills. A big thank you to Jane Lane (Well Being & Activity Co-ordinator) and Louise Huisman (Activity Leader) for their help in co-ordinating these visits.



Red Point Rock Climbing Birmingham

Pupils from The Bridge had the opportunity to learn how to rock climb at an indoor climbing centre in Birmingham. The pupils learnt the correct ways to tie the ropes, the technique to climbing and the buddy system to keep the person climbing safe.



I am pleased to say it was a successful trip as pupils improved their basic skills of climbing and the instructors were impressed with the behaviour and progress our pupils made in such a short amount of time. Pupils have the opportunity in the New Year to attend the climbing centre for 8 weeks to assess their skills and gain a qualification.



Fusion Dance School Workshop

Move over Diversity! Students from The Bridge took part in a Street Dance workshop at Fusion Dance School this week. They learnt a routine to Nicki Minaj's Chun Li. The students who took part had a brilliant time and are looking forward to learning more routines after Christmas.





Cathedral Visit



Students from The Bridge School have been visiting Lichfield Cathedral to support a variety of projects, including art and design, creative writing and local heritage learning.

As you can see, the students have enjoyed the cathedral in all its festive glory. They particularly enjoyed the 'special thoughts' trees, and the opportunity to light a candle for someone special, to remember them at Christmas.





Careers and CV Advice for Students at The Bridge School

One of our new initiatives at The Bridge School during the autumn term 2018 has been the introduction of a careers programme for students in Years 10 and 11. Thinking about future training and careers destinations can be a fantastic motivator, and we are committed at The Bridge to helping every young person to achieve their goals.

We have been holding CV workshops, mock interviews and inviting guest speakers to visit the centre to talk about careers. Already the students have enjoyed a talk from Staffordshire Fire Service, and there are more careers talks planned with visiting speakers in the New Year.

"Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service are always keen to make talented people aware of careers they can explore within the service. We were delighted to come out and support students at the Bridge School as they identify pathways of careers they would like to follow. " [Graeme Wright, Community Safety Officer, Lichfield Fire Station]

We have also been busy arranging work experience placements for our students so that they can get a taste of their chosen career. With several successful work placements having already taken place over the autumn term, including with a design and media company in Wolverhampton, we look forward to continuing to support our students in their career aspirations, so that they leave us with the experiences, skills and knowledge they will need to enter the world of work.

Zoe Torsney





School Lunch

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT IN THE NEW YEAR BRIDGE WILL BE TRIALING THE OPTION OF SOURCING HOT SCHOOL LUNCHES FROM THE LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL. THESE WILL BE CHARGED AT THE USUAL SCHOOL MEAL PRICE OF £2.30 EACH AND FREE FOR THOSE WITH FSM ENTITLEMENT.

—see example menu below

YOUR MENU

17th – 21st Dec 2018

Winter

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Homemade Cottage Pie</p> <p>Cheese Pizza Slice</p> <p>Ham Salad Roll</p> <p>Apple Pie & Custard</p>	<p>Toad in the Hole <small>With mashed potato</small></p> <p>Homemade Steak Pie <small>With mashed potato</small></p> <p>Tuna Mayo Wrap</p> <p>Mandarin Iced Sponge</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">CHRISTMAS LUNCH</p>	<p>Chicken Burger in a bun <small>with oven baked similes</small></p> <p>Homemade Fish Pie</p> <p>Egg Mayo Panini</p> <p>Fruit Crumble or Ice Cream Pot</p>	<p>100% Cod Fish Fingers <small>With skinny chips</small></p> <p>Chicken tikka & Steamed Rice</p> <p>Cheese Panini</p> <p>Shortbread Biscuit</p>

Alternative desserts available every day:

Muller light Yoghurt

Fresh fruit

Cheese & Crackers

Fruit Jelly Pots

Available daily: Assorted vegetables, Jacket Potato, Salad bar, fresh bread.
Milk, water & Aqua Juice Cordial



BELIEVE INSPIRE SET NO LIMITS

The VISION of the school

To support and inspire our young people to be successful learners, help them believe that anything is possible and there are no limits to their aspirations

The VALUES of our community

Reward hard work.
Value respect, honesty and kindness.
Inspiration and motivation in all our teaching.
Embrace wider cultural and curricular opportunity.
Engender positivity throughout our learning environment.

"Tell me and I will forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I will learn"
Benjamin Franklin

THE BRIDGE SCHOOL

BRIDGE SCHOOL TERM DATES 2019-2020

2018-2019 Academic Year	First day	Last day
Spring Term 1	Monday 7th January 2019	Friday 15th February 2019
HALF TERM HOLIDAY	Monday 18th February 2019	Friday 22nd February 2019
Spring Term 2	Monday 25th February 2019	Friday 12th April 2019
Inset Day Monday 11th March 2019		
EASTER HOLIDAYS	Monday 15th April 2019	Friday 26th April 2019
Summer Term 1	Monday 29th April 2019	Friday 24th May 2019
Inset Day Monday 29th April 2019		
May Day Monday 6th May 2019		
HALF TERM HOLIDAY	Monday 28th May 2019	Friday 31st May 2019
Summer Term 2	Monday 3rd June 2019	Monday 22nd July 2018
Inset Day Monday 22nd July		
2019-2020 Academic Year	First day	Last day
Inset Day Monday 2nd September 2019		
Autumn Term 1	Tuesday 3rd September 2019	Friday 25th October 2019
HALF TERM HOLIDAY	Monday 28th October 2019	Friday 1st November 2019
Autumn Term 2	Monday 4th November 2019	Friday 20th December 2019

**REMINDER****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

IS YOUR CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

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

**Please
Note**

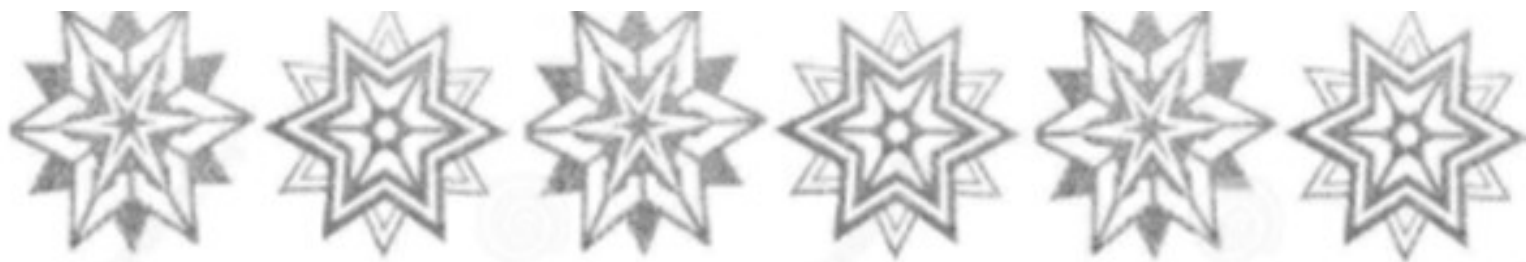
Start Time on Monday 7th January 2019 is 09:00 am

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.





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

Andrew Burton





If you take your child on a 2 week holiday in term time, attendance for the year immediately drops to 95%.

90% attendance is equivalent to missing 100 hour long lessons.

You can be fined up to £2,500 or given 3 months prison sentence if your child misses too much school.

90% attendance is equivalent to a **full month off school in a year!**

Around **85 million days** are **lost** to absence each year!

90% attendance means 1/2 a days absence each week; 4 weeks over the year & **half a years absence over 5 years!!**

Research shows that pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to **do well in the future.**

Days off school add up to lost learning

every school day matters ✓

100% attendance	0 weeks of learning missed	Best chance of success - well done! ✓
95% attendance	1 week, 4 days of learning missed	
90% attendance	3 weeks, 4 days of learning missed	Poor attendance, I'm worried ?
85% attendance	5 weeks, 3 days of learning missed	
80% attendance and below	At least 7 weeks, 3 days of learning missed	Very poor attendance, I'm seriously concerned ✗















