



# Albright Times



## *A message from our Head Teacher*

The start of 2022 has been as busy as usual at Albright with year 11's and post 16 pupils sitting another set of mock exams and securing places ready for post 16. As normal, we have welcomed many new pupils into the school and we are extremely proud of their journey so far and the welcome current pupils have given to them. Pupils have been out and about proudly representing Albright on some wonderful visits this term, including the MAD museum in Stratford, Macbeth in Birmingham, cinema trips and of course our whole school trip to London to see Wicked, where a fabulous day was had by all.

A special thank you to you all for the fantastic donations for the Ukraine appeal, we received an overwhelming supply of items which I am sure those families in receipt will be eternally grateful for your generosity. The pupils had a wonderful day full of cake sales, races and face painting to raise money for both comic relief of the Ukraine appeal.

Finally, I would like to say how thankful I am to all the staff, pupils and parents at Albright for their support over the past half term while I have been given the privileged job of leading Albright. I am sure you would all agree that Albright is a very special place and it is the team within the school that enable our pupils to flourish.

I wish you all a relaxing Easter break and look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Mrs Kelly



**April 2022**

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# Frank Chapman

*Frank Chapman was a very good experience. There were loads of fun activities to do like high ropes, orienteering and rock climbing. We also did loads of fun activities on the nights like night walks as well as free time to do whatever we wanted.*

*The trip allowed us to develop our independence skills as well as allowing many of us to spend our first nights away from home. Overall it was a great experience!*

*By Josh P (Yr 11)*





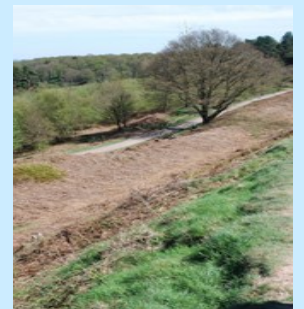
# Castle Ring



*If we had travelled back in time to 50AD at the same time as taking Year 11 to visit Castle Ring on the edge of Cannock Chase, we may have been able to see a peaceful and perhaps bustling Iron Age Hill fort being used for growing crops, farming sheep and going about daily life. On the day we went time travel was not possible so it was up to Year 11 to imagine how the site had looked nearly 2000 years earlier.*



*They used their excellent skills to analyse the evidence that they could see and work out how that would have been different in the Iron Age. During the visit they spotted the remains of the original defences around the hillfort, the extra added features of foundations to a Medieval hunting lodge, an 18th century path and they successfully re enacted the attacking of the hillfort as it would have taken place by the Romans when they arrived in Britain.*



*Although the mud and wind on Cannock Chase made this the least glamorous trip we have ever been on, our Year 11 history group made it the most imaginative and hilarious experience and they clearly realised their own ability to be amazing archaeologists and fantastic Celtic warriors!*

## *Miss Wilkes*

It was interesting but it was really cold. You could see all the hill forts which was cool and the views were amazing. – **Ellie A (Yr 110)**

Before going to Castle Ring I felt excited. It was cool that we could see a lot of different parts of the place. It was a cold day but it was great when we were allowed to explore. I was tired and cold after the trip, but we had a good day – **Oliver S (Yr 11)**

We had a good day, it was interesting but the weather was very cold – **Chelsea (Yr 11)**

Castle Ring was a fun trip. We got to see where an old Iron age hillfort used to be, which was interesting. It was a cold day, but overall I enjoyed it – **Josh P (Yr 11)**

The trip to Cannock Chase was a great experience as I now have more of an insight on the modern parts of Castle Ring. It was a really cold and windy day, but walking round knowing the history that we were looking back on was exciting, this made me eager to learn more – **Prachi (Yr 11)**

We went to Castle Ring as part of our 'history around us' study. Our group observed the site and discussed what the site would have looked like during Celtic times. We filled in a worksheet with questions about the site – **Paige (Yr 11)**

# Attendance Achievements



*Congratulations to the following pupils who have successfully met their individual Attendance Target for Spring 2*

## **Spring 2 Attendance Target Winners –**

**Key Stage 2 - F Khan**

**Key Stage 3 – R Ricketts, A Cotton, A Jew**

**Year 10 – CA, MJP**

**Year 11 – TC, PP, JP, OS, JO**

**Post 16 - OS**





# Wellbeing Session



A morning spent well!

In March, Key Stages 2 and 3 spent a wonderful morning concentrating on themselves in our Wellbeing Workshop.

The morning was led by wellbeing guru Sephúne, who delivered activities such as meditation, positive affirmations and mindfulness. All pupils engaged positively and enjoyed the activities in the workshop, including creating some fantastic affirmations paintings. It was great to see all pupils relax during the guided meditations. Sephúne was a superb host and all pupils were presented with a positive affirmations calendar to keep them going throughout the year, as well as a box of chocolates.

We hope that all Key Stage 2 and 3 pupils were able to take away some strategies to continue supporting them both at school and at home. - Miss Smith

I liked it and it was calming, we had a few different activities to do – **Ashton (Yr 9)**

I enjoyed the wellbeing session but I didn't like talking in front of everyone as I was very nervous – **Carly (Yr 9)**

It was really good, I felt really relaxed. I really enjoyed the painting - **Lauren (Yr 9)**

I found the activity very calming – **Isabelle (Yr 9)**

We Painted our own expression of a word that we were given. We then discussed our work and why we chose to paint it. After that we did some meditation with Seph and ended the lesson. – **Emma (Yr 9)**

Seph was talking about how wellbeing is important. We did an activity where we were given a word for us to interpret and paint a picture of what it meant to us. After the activity we did some meditation with made me feel a little uncomfortable, but when we had completed the session Seph gave everyone a box of chocolates and a colouring sheet, which was really nice – **Caitlin – (Yr 8)**

A lady came in and did some health and wellbeing activities. She gave us a word and we painted a picture to show what we thought it represented to us. – **Shaan - (Yr 8)**

It was fun and very useful. I enjoyed the painting and Seph was very kind – **Imani (KS3)**

I really enjoyed this session and would like to do it again, I would like to thank Miss Smith for organising it. I enjoyed the painting part of this activity the most – **Shelbie (NB3)**

I really liked the session because we did painting and I enjoy painting. It was nice to meet Sef, I really enjoyed her taking the lesson – **Rosilee – (KS3)**

# London Wicked Trip



I enjoyed this trip. I especially liked the song popular in the show and eating pizza at Zizzi's – **Lylah (Yr 4)**

It was amazing, I had so much fun. We should do more trips like this. The only negative thing was when it rained, otherwise it was a great day. Thank you to the teachers who made it happen – **Chelsea (Yr 11)**

I thought the trip to London was really good and enjoyed spending time with my friends. I had never been on the tube before and thought it was quite scary, but I really loved the whole day including eating at Zizzi's – **Leah (Yr 9)**

I liked the Wicked show and loved being in London. It is somewhere I have wanted to go for a long time. The food was delicious at Zizzi's! The tube was a bit busy and the train journey took ages, but I had a good day – **Ashton (Yr 9)**

The train journey was quiet and relaxing, when we got to London we went on the underground, which was okay but very busy. Before we went to the show we ate at Zizzi's, we had pizza, the food was really nice! We then went to the theatre to watch Wicked. I was a great show, I had never seen a show in London before. I enjoyed the day and also spending time with my friends – **Sienna (Yr 9)**

Before we went on the trip I was really nervous about going, but was really happy after I went as I got to experience something that I may not get to do again. The day was really fun and I also got to spend time with my friends – **Lauren (Yr 9)**

The train journey was good and the tube was busy but fun! We ate pizza for lunch at Zizzi's, it was yummy and very tasty. I loved Wicked, the actors were all very talented and it was a really enjoyable story! - **Imani (Yr 9)**

I enjoyed going to London because I had never been there before. Going on the train was really good, but the underground was a bit noisy for me. The theatre was really good, the costumes that came out were amazing. I found some of the characters really funny – **Rosilee (Yr 9)**

I was really excited to go to London because I had never been to central London before. I enjoyed Wicked because I hadn't seen it and I didn't really know what it was about. I got to talk to other pupils in my group which was really nice. I had a really good day – **Shelbie (Yr 9)**

I was nervous before I went but whilst there I felt calm. The train journey was a little cramped, but the show was good, the actors were great. – **Alfie (Yr 10)**

# London Wicked Trip

The train journey took a long time. We went on the underground the tube train was really fast. We went to Zizzi' for dinner, the food was really good. I enjoyed the show although it wasn't exactly my taste – **Aneurin (Yr10)**

At first I was a bit hesitant, but during the trip I felt ok. I really enjoyed the day, it was great! – **Ethan (yr10)**

I woke up at 6am which made me feel tired, but I still enjoyed my day. The train to London was good. When we got there we went for pizza at Zizzi's which was really good. The theatre show was good and I did enjoy it because the actors were very talented. My favorite parts were the songs. The costumes and sets were really colourful and full of lights – **Emily (Yr10)**

The trip to London made me feel relieved as it was a big deal for me to go to London. We went on train and the London underground which was daunting as it was very busy. I felt relieved to know that I had friends and teachers who were with me and to reassure me that nothing was going to go wrong. It was good to stay in our year groups so I stayed with my friends throughout the whole day.

Before going to the theatre we went to Zizz's, which was also an enjoyable experience. It was definitely nicer to know that we wouldn't have to speak to the staff members at the restaurant as that felt a bit worrying.

Wicked was the first musical I had seen in a theatre and it was an experience that I will never forget. I was very happy that I decided to go and watch the musical and would definitely recommend to seeing it again. One of the best things about the performance was the way they went all out and were great singers. The cast were incredible. It made the performance even better to know that I was with my friends.—**Mollie-Mae—(Yr 10)**

I really enjoyed our trip. Going to the theatre in London is something I have always wanted to do and getting the chance to do it with my friends made it even better than I could have expected! Our seats in the theatre had a brilliant view and the show was incredible. The journey home on the underground and train made me feel more comfortable about getting public transport in the future. I would have liked to see more of London, but I thoroughly enjoyed my trip – thank you! – **Charlotte (Yr 10)**



# Albrights London Experience Through a Pupils Eyes

On Wednesday the 16th of February this year, Albright Education centre went to the Apollo Victoria Theatre in London to see Wicked the musical. We started off the journey to London at Sandwell and Dudley train station where we caught the Avanti West Coast train into London Euston. Before getting on the train, I was given a tiara with the words 'Birthday Girl' on, it made me smile because birthdays were forgotten about at mainstream, and it was nice to be remembered. The train journey was fun as some student played card games, listened to music, watched shows and read. Our journey was stress free and it was nice to see everyone in a different setting.

Once we got off the train at London Euston, we made our way to the underground. Many members of the public wished me a happy birthday which made the walk through the station cheery which was a contrast to my expectations because I sometimes can struggle to be in crowded areas. Another thing which made me feel safe being in a crowded area was my teachers, we stuck in groups, and I knew if I needed anything I could ask a member of staff and it would be okay. In the communal area of the station, where there was shops and restaurants, we watched the pigeons flying over head and some feeding off food crumbs. I found this amusing because it was something different to what we see where we are from and the local community who often travel through London were completely unfazed. After going down the escalators to the hot and stuffy underground, we waited for our train.

On the underground, we boarded the carriages in our set groups and stood for the short journey. The speed and atmosphere of the tube was amusing, especially watching everyone trying to keep their balance! At Victoria station, we got off the train and headed to ground level where we would stroll to Zizzi's, I was excited but nervous to eat somewhere new.

Zizzi's was not a long walk from the train station. We passed the theatre on the way, and I was amazed at the beauty of the building. It was tall and lit up to display the Wicked poster! Walking into Zizzi's I had conflicting emotions, it was beautiful inside and the food smelt amazing, but the anxiety was creeping up inside me it didn't last long though as I realised the whole thing was not as intimidating as it seemed. We were sat at two long tables decorated with pots of eating utensils and fake plants. The restaurant was cosy and rustic on the inside and all the members of staff were kind. I sat amongst my friends, and we talked about being excited to see the show. After a short wait, pizzas were served across the tables. They were placed on platters, and we all got to help ourselves to what we wanted to eat from them they also served chips in little metal buckets. It was all very tasty, and I am glad that I pushed through the uneasiness to experience it! But it wasn't finished there, as once we had finished our food; everyone began to sing happy birthday. I was both mortified and joyful because I didn't expect it at all, I wasn't prepared. A waiter gave me a slice of lemon cheesecake which I shared with a friend and thoroughly enjoyed. I can honestly say that if the day had ended there, I would've still had the best birthday but, of course, it didn't. It just kept getting better.

Once we had left Zizzi's, we took a few photos and then walked the short distance to the theatre. Prior to the trip, I had never seen a musical live but it was something I had always wanted to do and getting to do it made me giddy with excitement. We had our bags checked before entering the theatre and then made our way to our seats. I sat surrounded by friends and shared out sweets whilst we waited for the show to start. The view from where we were sitting was amazing. It was all clear and we weren't too close nor too far. When the show started, the excitement bubbled within me, I had been anticipating this trip ever since I handed my letter in and hearing the first few notes of the music made me extremely happy. The shows music and lights were brilliant, and the storyline was amazing. I had no knowledge of the plot of Wicked before seeing it, but I believe the experience would have been just the same even if I knew all about it. The production had twists, turns and revelations that help you understand the Wizard of Oz so much better. I enjoyed the production so much that I tried to convince my parents to buy tickets for the following week! It hooked me and even now when I'm writing this, over a month later, I can still vividly remember the experience. The soundtrack is constantly being played when I'm doing things around the house. Wicked is an amazing play and I'm so grateful to have had this experience.

After the show, we made our way back to Sandwell and Dudley train station. The journey home, everyone was exhausted but happy and I can truly say it was the best school trip (and birthday) I have ever experienced!

*Charlotte Aston - Year 10.*



# Attendance Reward Cinema Trip—Sing 2

Once a term we run an attendance reward trip to the cinema. If your child has 100% attendance for a half term they will go to the cinema during the first week of the next half term. This term we went to see Sing 2. The film was great and the pupils represented Albright impeccably.

- Mr Downey



# Red Nose Day



On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, we celebrated Red Nose Day as well as integrating a fundraiser for those effected by the war in Ukraine. Students had the choice to wear red, blue or yellow, for a donation made to school. We organised various games and events for students to participate in, including a bake sale, face painting and apple bobbing! We also invited students, Parents and Carers to make donations of goods to be sent out to those in need in Ukraine and was overwhelmed with the support received from our students, parents and carers, being able to make a very large donation to families in need. An amazing day was had by all and it was all for two worthy causes. We raised a total of £124.70 for each cause. Well done Albright!

For Red Nose Day we wore our own clothes. We also had a bake sale to raise money. We had fun activities which included games like apple bobbing. All those were part of donating - Kashvi (Yr9)

It was a fun day, we did activities. Next time we need to do more activities. I like our extended lunch time - Ashton (Yr9)

I didn't do the activities but enjoyed wearing my own clothes and had a really good day - Lauren (Yr9)



# World Book Day



On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March we celebrated World Book Day. This was a perfect chance to celebrate our collective love of books through a range of activities. Staff and pupils dressed up as fictional characters (the highlights included a Very Hungry Caterpillar, Miss Trunchbull and multiple Harry Potters). In assembly, Mrs Deeks shared a poem she loves and we had a lot of fun trying to identify teachers by the books on their shelf. The pupils in key stages 2 and 3 took part in one of the World Book Day live events with Rashmi Sirdeshpande, author of 'Think Like a Boss', which is a new addition to our school library. We thought about what makes successful entrepreneurs and leaders in business, as well as coming up with our own inventions to solve annoying daily problems. In the afternoon, we created our own book boxes. Pupils recreated their favourite books and films artistically, which gave us the opportunity to talk about why we like particular authors and genres. At the beginning of the week we launched a scavenger hunt: pupils searched for authors and researched the books they had written. There were so many entries that almost got 100% that it was hard to choose a winner. In the end, the prize of a new book went to Alexia, who has pre-ordered 'The World's Worst Pets'. - **Miss Bruton**

# Enrichment

*On Friday afternoons we collapse the timetable and pupils take part in enrichment sessions. The purpose of the sessions is to improve the social emotional mental health of our children and give them a break from the pressures of academic study. This half term people have been swimming, to the gym, been dancing and researching Marvel characters. Next half term pupils will have the option of gardening, golf, Spanish, origami, and to dance—Mr*

## Dance

I enjoy dance because it is different from a normal dance lesson. We don't have to take things seriously, you just dance how you want to and have a laugh! – **Brooke (Yr10)**



Swimming is good! I'm very grateful for going and that the school is paying for me. If the school does it again in the future I would like to go – **MJ – (Yr10)**

## Swimming

I loved going swimming last term because I enjoy spending my free time in the water. Swimming is my favourite thing to do – **Brooke (Yr10)**

We go swimming in a nice pool and get taught how to swim. I am grateful for the opportunity and am enjoying it so far. – **Alfie (Yr10)**



Swimming enrichment is fun because other schools don't do it and the swimming is a fun activity. Jules Pools is a good swimming pool and I really like it – **Ethan (Yr10)**

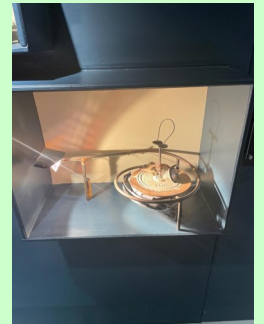
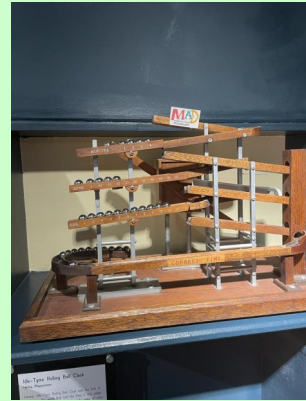
## Marvel

During enrichment we have been watching different Marvel movies. I really like this as it is a chance to relax after a week of school. I like the opportunity to sit with my friends and watch movies. In the first week we designed our own super heroes which was fun as got to choose their personality and super hero names – **Mollie-Mai – (Yr10)**



In Marvel we watch Marvel series and sometimes do activities related to the films for example we have created our own super heroes. The enrichment is fun and a nice way to end the school week – **Charlotte (Yr10)**

# Mad Museum



I liked the Mad Museum because I'd never been before it was nice to go with friends and a great day - Lauren (Yr9)

The trip was really good and the weather was also lovely. I really enjoyed the day but the journey took a long time - Ashton (Yr9)



The Mad Museum was very interesting. A lot of things moved or started with motions such as hand clapping or the lights moved when you put your hand there. A lot of these things were made a long time ago but still worked. I had a great day - Kashvi (Yr9)

# German Market & Pantomime



*In the last week before Christmas all of the pupils and staff at Albright Education Centre jumped on the train from Tipton into Birmingham.*

*They went to the Old Repertory Theatre and watched a performance of Alice in Wonderland.*

*After this the pupils went to look around the German Market to experience a Christmas winter wonderland.*

*The pupils were credit to the school and you as parents.*

***Mr Downey***

# Key Dates for your Diary

*Teacher Training Day – Friday 8th April 2022*

*Easter Holidays – 11th April – 22nd April 2022*

*Return to School – Monday 25th April 2022*

*May Day Bank Holiday – 2nd May 2022*

*Exams – 18th May – 29th June 2022*

*Plas Gwynant – 18th – 20th July 2022*

*Break up for Summer Holidays – 21st July (Half Day)*



*Return to School for all Pupils–*

*Monday 5th September 2022*