

Albright Times

Year 11 Leavers Afternoon Tea

On 28th May we held an Afternoon Tea for our year 11 leavers, to celebrate their achievements and to wish them well on their journey after Albright. Restrictions unfortunately meant we were unable to hold the usual Prom... But Mrs Parker certainly helped make up for it by putting on a marvellous spread! We had a relaxed, civilised and pleasant afternoon chatting, eating cake and drinking tea! A lovely opportunity to get the posh teapots and cups and saucers out!!



July 2021-
Issue 6

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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

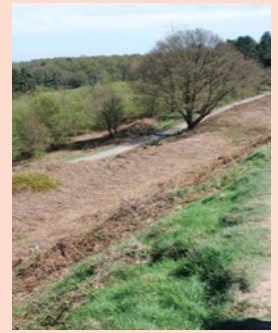
It was cool to see the place where the Celts lived and what strategies they had to stop the Romans attacking. It was quite cold but it was good overall because we got to see the ramparts—Chelsea T (Yr 11)

I Enjoyed the trip to Castle Ring because we got to learn about the Celts and how they lived. The weather wasn't great but overall it was fun and a good experience - Libby-Mai (Yr 11)

I enjoyed the days events as it gave us chance to have a break from normal lessons, whilst enriching our educational experience. My only complaint was that the weather wasn't great - Will (Yr 11)

I enjoyed being outdoors and learning about the history of Castle Ring. It was a fun opportunity- Amiee (Yr 11)

I felt nervous about going on the trip but was ok when we arrived at Castle Ring. We learnt about the Celts and the ramparts. We attempted to climb the ramparts! - Oliver M (Yr 11)



Hay Festival

Celebrating the Hay Festival in the Nurture Base!

During the 24th and 28th May 2021, Albright's Nurture Base enjoyed the delights of the Hay Festival.

Across the course of the week, pupils watched a number of authors talk about some of their publications. These included comedian and author Matt Lucas, scientist Robert Winston and favoured children's author Frank Cottrell-Boyce.

Inspired by Cottrell-Boyce's newest book, Noah's Gold, the pupils set about creating their own treasure map, which included a lot of their own personality and interests!

The Nurture Base have also created a 'Read and Respond' board on the English Resource Board where they can add comments about books they are reading inside and outside of lessons.

We cannot wait until next year's Hay Festival!

Mrs Oakshott-Marston



Welcome to the Team

I would like to introduce myself as Mr Panjanaden, the new Home and Hospital Tuition Co-ordinator here at Albright Education Centre.

My responsibilities are to meet student and parents/carers and arrange Home Tuition for pupils who are unable to attend their main school or come into the centre. I conduct regular reviews to monitor students' progress, and advise on next steps for said students in the education journey. I also oversee the Hospital Tuition provision at Sandwell Hospital.

I have been teaching for 16 years and have come from a leadership background in mainstream education. I will also be teaching PSHE and humanities here at Albright.

I very much look forward to working with the committed, supportive, and generous team here at the centre, and of course the wonderful students who attend here. - **Mr Panjanaden**



Volcanoes

Students took part in a STEM project. The challenge was to make the best volcano model. Working in groups, students used papier mache to create a host of weird and wonderful volcanoes, which they then 'exploded' outside using vinegar and baking soda - Mr Aimes

I enjoyed making the volcano with Sophie. We chose the biggest bottle available. I would have liked more time to fully create the type we wanted though—Owen (Yr 11)

It was fun. I prefer to work on my own but working with others on this project was better—Chelsea B (Yr10)

When I found out we were going to make volcano I was excited. I found it quite tricky but really fun! Making it erupt was my favourite part. My explosion wasn't the best but I still had fun and would like to do more fun activities like this in the future—Keira (Yr 8)

The decorating of my volcano was fun, but the explosion was disappointing—Paige (Yr 10)

It was fun, we made it as big a size and shape as possible. The colours were good but I was a little disappointed with the explosion - Aneurin (KS3)

The making of the volcano was really fun, the team atmosphere was great! - Josh (Yr 10)



Goodbye & Good Luck

It is with sadness that we are saying goodbye to two very well thought of members of the Albright family this summer – Mr Hartley and Miss Duder.

Mr Hartley has worked with the school for 6 years now (starting when it was still Whiteheath Education Centre) as a supply teacher, quickly becoming a permanent member of staff just 3 months later. Mr Hartley is a teacher with numerous skills and has taught a range of subjects for the school but D&T has always been his passion. His flair with woodwork has demonstrated itself not just in the classroom but for many extra projects around the school that will serve as lovely memories after he has left. He has thrown himself into non-teaching activities as eagerly as teaching, singing in our school performances, bingo calling on staff nights out. He is always our 'go to man' when we need something fixed – no matter how big or small – and we will be lost without him!



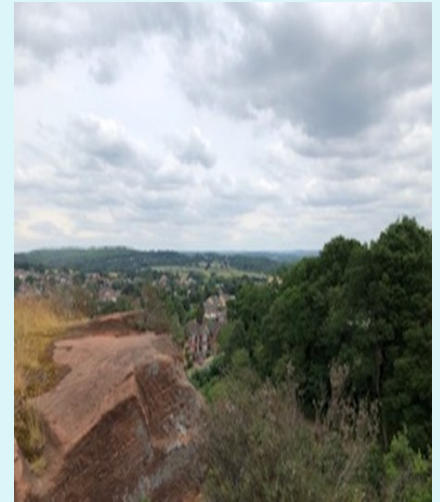
Miss Duder started more recently – in January 2020 before the dreaded lockdowns began. Originally employed as an English Teacher, Miss Duder quickly had Humanities added to her timetable when we realised her passion for RE! Despite being with us through the difficult period of remote education Miss Duder has always put huge amounts of effort into delivering interesting and supportive lessons, even creating whole schemes of work around pupils' particular interests! The pupils have flourished in her care and have made excellent progress in their lessons.



Both are going onto new adventures, mainly outside of Education, and we wish them the very best in their futures. Good luck from us all at Albright – keep in touch!

Key Stage 3 Trip to Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses

On Monday 21st June, our Key Stage 3 pupils went to visit Kinver Edge and Rock Houses, getting chance to explore the site and learn about the history of the area, but also to gather information to use in their travel writing work in English this half-term.



We started off by looking around the interiors of some of the Rock Houses, learning about how people would have lived there right up until the 1960s. Looking around the houses gave pupils chance to understand what life might have been like for the men, women and children who called the Rock Houses home.

It was then time for a walk up the hill to see the remains of the Bronze Age fort, hearing about the trading that the fort inhabitants would have conducted with other local settlements. Not only did pupils get chance to see and hear about this history, but also to learn about the conservation work being done by the National Trust in the area.

A great trip and chance to learn about History, Geography and English at the same time! - *Miss Wilkes*

Attendance Achievements



Congratulations to the following pupils who have successfully met their individual Attendance Target over Summer 1 and 2.

Summer 1 Attendance Target Winners –

Key Stage 2 – Alfie

Key Stage 3 – Codi, MJ, Aneurin, Lauren, Keira, Shane, Mollie, Leah and Jacob

Year 10 – Oliver, Joshua and Chelsea

Summer 2 Attendance Target Winners

Key Stage 2 – Alfie

Key Stage 3 – MJ, Codi, Aneurin, Jacob, Lauren, Keira, Mollie, Leah, Rosilee and Amira

Year 10 – Joshua, Chelsea, Tyler and Prachi

Year 11 – Owen

Most improved Attendance – Chelsea B

100% Attendance Award – Codi



Go Karting

The pupils and staff went to the Go Karting track in Oldbury during enrichment. The pupils got to channel their inner Lewis Hamilton as they raced against their teachers. Unfortunately for the children, the staff managed to get the faster lap times. However, the pupils attitude and willingness to give things a go meant that they were the ultimate winners.

A special mention for Paige, Mason and Codi who were all excellent!

Mr Downey

Well before the Go Karting it was kind of scary but during the actual time there I actually enjoyed it. It made me want to go again – Tyler – Yr10

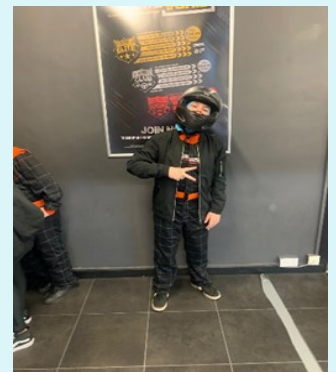
Before we went I was excited but nervous that I might crash. Once we got there everyone was excited. We had all of these cool gear on like suit and helmet. When we were on the track it was thrilling and exciting. I would love to go again – Leah – Yr 8

Before the trip I was worried, Luckily I got comfort from a teacher. Not only was I worried, but I was also excited. When we got there I got really excited as I had never been go karting before. I was really happy that I had gone afterwards and grateful that I had the opportunity to go! – Keira – Y8

Before going I was hyped about going. It was hard when we had to put the outfit on. I did the first lap and it was fun, I really enjoyed it. I would love to do it again if I got the chance – Oliver – Yr 10

Go Karting in Oldbury was quite entertaining. At first I was a bit nervous and crashed a few times, but by the time of the second lap I felt more confident! – Josh – Yr 10

I was scared at first. It was extremely fun though. I would love to do it again – Paige – Yr 10



Message from our Head Teacher

..And so another year draws to a close, and whilst it is not a year we would want to repeat (!), it is another one of many successes and achievements for all our pupils and staff as well.

We said goodbye to our year 11s a while back now, following a very tumultuous period of GCSE preparation and confusion as to whether exams were going to happen. To be on the safe side they all sat Mock exams anyway, working really hard to produce some fantastic work and brilliant results - I know they will be delighted when they pick up their results in the summer (August 12th!!)

As you go through the letter you will see we have still managed to squeeze in trips and exciting activities for all our pupils - even if we've had to do them with more restrictions in place. It is so lovely how our students participate so happily in everything we arrange for them - and so nice to see them getting involved in new experiences. Thank you for your willingness to do so and thank you to all the staff for arranging so many wonderful opportunities for Albricht pupils. It has also been great to see parents getting involved in the parent workshops or events we have run - it has been lovely to get parents together for chats, coffee and cake and share stories, experiences and advice. There will definitely be more of all these things on offer next year!

We will be welcoming some new staff members in September who you will all get to know very soon... but to give you a head's up, their names are Miss Bruton, Miss Powers, Mrs Francis and Mrs Hayer - we're looking forward to welcoming them into the Albricht family and I know they can't wait to start.

Whilst I hate having to refer to the dreaded pandemic, I do unfortunately have to take this opportunity to give you some updates. There has been a lot of talk in the news about Freedom Day and getting back to normal - however, we are continuing to see some of the highest infection rates for a long time. With this in mind, we will continue to put safety measures in places for our pupils and staff in September. We would ask that pupils continue to wear masks on the community transport to and from school and that when we are inside in the communal areas. Pupils and staff may wish to wear them in the smaller classrooms too or to open windows. We will continue to test everyone twice a week at school, with the Lateral Flow Tests, and it is recommended that everyone does this over the summer holidays too. Albricht is one of the very, very few schools that has not had to close any bubbles or shut our doors to students - and we want to ensure this continues. Thank you for your support in this.

I also wanted to say a huge thank you to the numerous parents and carers who have taken time out of their busy lives to send us messages and emails expressing their gratitude for the support Albricht gives their children. It has been so lovely to read these messages of appreciation and I love sharing them with the staff. Whilst we love our jobs, and enjoy working at this special provision, it is still really heart-warming to receive such lovely notes - thank you! ❤️

Wishing you all a happy, safe and relaxing summer holidays - see you in September for a more 'normal' school year!

Mrs Hazelwood



Albright Time Capsule

Albright has buried a time capsule in the outdoor area near the trees. The idea was first thought of before the pandemic hence two new items were added to the box - a mask and test kit. Original items included timetables, an Albright hoodie, house badges for Churchill and Windsor, a step booklet and a clock made in DT. Many thanks to the pupils who helped to dig the hole which was about two feet deep.—Mr Hartley



Key Dates for your diary

Wednesday 21st July at 12.05pm - School Closes for summer holiday.

Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd September - Staff Training Days.

Monday 6th September - School Opens to pupils

Friday 24th September 2021 - MacMillan Coffee Morning

Friday 22nd October - Staff Training Day

Wednesday 3rd November - KS4 Parents Evening

Wednesday 12th January 2022 - KS3 Parents Evening