

Albright Times

A message from our Head Teacher

And so we reach the end of another tremendously successful year at Albright Education Centre!

In a year where there has been huge discontent in the education sector, particularly around SEND, I am so proud of all our dedicated and professional staff, who have provided a continuous and unwavering service to our young people. I am always astounded when we write these end of term newsletters, the scale of activities and experiences that our pupils get here at Albright. From residential trips, to educational visits, to rewards and prizes and to cross-curricular and themed days – they really are the luckiest of pupils. This newsletter is no exception... enjoy reading about it all.

From September 2023, you will notice a few changes as we finally start to expand the number of sites we operate from in response to the growing number of referrals to our school. For a long time we have been going over our numbers, because we have wanted to ensure as many children as possible benefit from our wonderful provision... but it has been getting more of a squash and a squeeze with every month. We are incredibly grateful that from September we will have additional sites (all in Sandwell) to help alleviate this problem. It will continue to be the same amazing staff that teach all pupils – and we will continue to provide our flexible and free transport service. We have taken over the old nursery that adjoins us and we will also be taking over what was a temporary site for Elm Tree Special School, on Connor Road, whilst they awaited their new build in Wednesbury. Anyone affected should have been contacted by one of our team by now.

I will finish off by saying have a restful, safe and enjoyable holiday and thank you for all your continued support – we are always thankful to be able to do what we do for such lovely pupils and families. Happy Holidays!

Mrs Hazelwood



July 2023

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- Albright Water fight
- Goodbye and Goodluck
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Albright Water Fight



As a treat for the students for persevering through the hot weather and being sensible while the year 11s sat their GCSEs we had a whole school water fight. The students had great fun wetting their peers and the teachers. I am not sure who enjoyed it more; the students Mr Plant or Mr Milne. - **Miss Smith**



Impact Through Partnership Award

We were delighted to receive yet another award - 'The Award for Impact through Partnership' from Pearson National Teaching Awards. A big thank you to Mrs Oakshott-Marsden for applying and the hard work involved. Here she is with our certificate and we also have a letter from the author Michael Morpurgo (President of Pearson National Teaching Awards) who stated 'The work you do - day in, day out - is life-enhancing, life-changing.' Well done and thank you to all the staff that work at Albright who provide such phenomenal support and education to all our children and young people!



Yum Yum Catering

Here at Albright, we have as part of our BTEC vocational curriculum started the Albright Catering Company ACC and the YUM YUM club, where pupils can work within a team to plan, prepare, cook, and serve food to staff, pupils, friends, and family. We have catered for an afternoon tea; set up and prepared a conference and prepared, cooked, and served 80 guests for the year 11 school leavers BBQ

The Yum Yum Club is a Friday social event where we create a gathering of pupils and staff all sitting together, eating together enjoying great food and great company. All involved have enthralling conversations and fun, giving pupils the chance to try new and exciting foods this term the ACC Yum Yum Club served Pizza, mac'n' cheeses, Thai chicken noodle broth, BBQ wings, and American hotdogs.

The staff and pupils here at Albright have requested that this social food club continues in the new academic year and we are already working together in planning the menu.—Mrs Parker



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



Goodbye & Good Luck

We are very, very sad to be saying goodbye to two of our longest standing members of staff.

Miss Hemingsley joined us in 2003 when we were still called Whiteheath, as a Learning Support Practitioner. 3 years later she had reached the heady heights of Higher Level Teaching Assistant and supported pupils in both the school setting as well as the Hospital. Miss Hemingsley has worked across different subject areas and has also provided mentoring support. She has always been a firm favourite with many of our pupils and she will be a big loss. However, we will get to stay in touch a little bit as she is going to work at the hospital where we still teach, as Play Therapy Manager.



Mrs Lockett has worked with our service for many, many years.... hence her being the font of all business knowledge at Albright. She joined Albright Pupil Referral Service in 1996 as an Admin Assistant (and this is where our present name came from!!) She provided huge support to the hospital service and then joined Whiteheath in 2001 - on a temporary basis... and proceeded to stay for the next 22 years!!!! Although she joined as secretary, she rose to being Exams, Data and Finance Manager to then being Office Manager and eventually to School Business Manager and moved with us to our current Albright site! Mrs Lockett has been a real support to me as Head Teacher - and I have a sneaky suspicion that she will be back in some guise soon!



We wish both a wonderful and exciting next step in their journeys - please stay in touch and visit us often - we will miss you immensely!

However, we are also welcoming some new members of staff. Mrs Bradley will be joining us as Vocational Lead in September. She has a wealth of knowledge in a variety of areas but will predominantly be supporting Mrs Long with our Post 16 pupils and our KS4 pupils. Mrs Bennett will also be joining us as Admin Officer so she will become a familiar face for many very soon. I am sure both will be really happy here and we look forward to welcoming them to the Albright family.

A Zombie Apocalypse - Stem Day

On Wednesday 5th July, Albright was contaminated by an unknown pathogen that had started to infect staff and turn them into Zombies!

As part of our curriculum enrichment the pupils used their STEM skills to find the cause, a potential cure, how to make barricades, how to crack codes and how to create electrical circuits (without an electrical supply).

Students worked in teams from all year groups and used communication and resilience to try to defeat the zombies.

During lunchtime unfortunately pupils did succumb to the 'Cordyceps Fungus' and became zombies through dance and face paints.

Special thanks go to Mrs. Tymoshyshyn, Mr. Aimes, Mr. Plant and Mrs. Francis for organising some amazing workshops and to Miss Powers and Mr Milne for being fantastic zombies.

All the pupils who took part had a great experience and I am pleased to say that Albright returned to a zombie free zone the very next day.

Mrs. Adams (STEM Faculty Lead)



Attendance Achievements



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

Elm -

Dornika Seraj

Oak -

Kei Reynolds

KS3 -

Tyler Brooks, Kiera Burford, Sophie Pipe, Summer Powell,
Nicole Robinson, Sam Smith

Year 10 -

Erin Brodie, Leah Burden, Sophie Clifton, Leah Rose
Joseph, Kashvi Kharel, Veronika Kretowska, Demi Lines,
Corey Whitehead

Albright Prom 2023



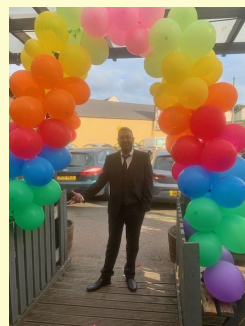
The end of year prom was held last week and it was a special occasion. There was a great turn out and everyone was dressed to impress.



We said goodbye to some of our year 11 and post 16 pupils and the children created a fantastic atmosphere at the venue. The photobooth was full all night and we hope the children keep these photos and look back on the prom with fondness. It shows what progress a lot of the children have made socially and in terms of confidence that they were able to come to such an event.



A massive thank you to Mrs Parker for feeding everyone and Gavyn for his DJ skills. - Mr S Downey



Albright
Prom
2023



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Full-A Flava

As part of KS3 food lessons, our focus has been Jamaican cuisine this term. The students have been preparing a range of Jamaican dishes. As a reward for their hard work this term, the students went to visit a Jamaican takeaway 'full of flava' in Birmingham. The students enjoyed ordering their food and embracing the different cultural experiences - Miss Smith.

I was nervous to go out to eat but the food was really good! It was a little bit spicy but tasted like KFC – **Summer (Yr 9)**

I was excited for the trip and when we got there the food looked aesthetically pleasing. It was nice to taste and the people were nice too. I would go again, it was nice to talk to my friends – **Tristan (Yr8)**

I found the chicken was a bit sweet and sticky, but it was ok. – **Tyler B (Yr8)**

We left at lunchtime but we had pre ordered our food so it was ready and waiting for us when we got there. It was amazing and I would definitely go back again – **Sophia M (Yr9)**

The food I had was sweet, but I enjoyed it. The staff were very nice and accommodating. I would like to go back again – **Edward (Yr8)**

I felt excited to go to Full a Flava and enjoyed the food I had ordered and felt satisfied afterwards. The service was good and I would like to go back again – **Felix (Yr9)**

We went to the restaurant and sat down and while we waited for our food we all had a chat. Overall I would go again without a doubt. The food was tasty, the seasoning was delicious! – **Sam (Yr9)**

Today we went to Full a Flava and we had food. It was jerk chicken and was very nice. I will definitely be going back. **Caleb (Yr9)**

It was nice, I was kind of excited but nervous because it wasn't a normal school day. The service at the restaurant was good, the staff were very friendly, the food was also good. I am a picky eater so wasn't expecting to like it, but I did so I am happy – **Skye (Yr9)**



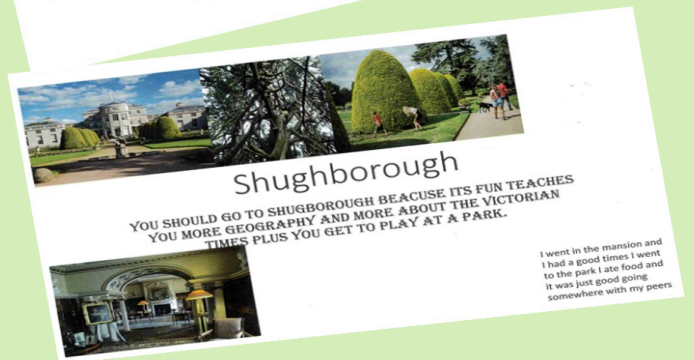
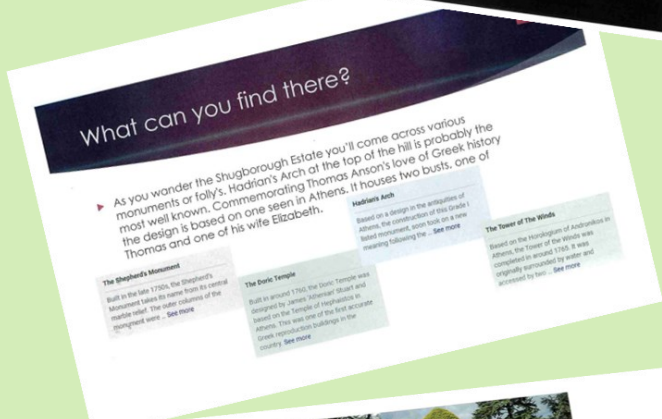
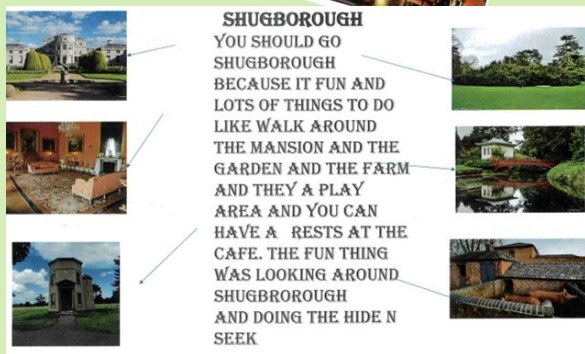
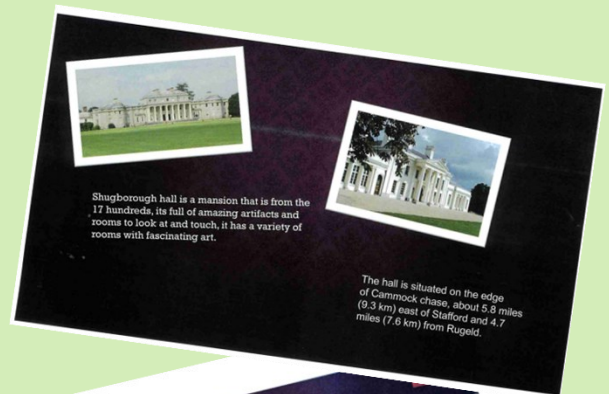
Shugborough Hall

We had a lovely time at Shugborough Hall learning how the other half used to live.

The mansion was beautifully decorated and it was somewhere that all of us could imagine living in as the wealthy people of the past.

We had great fun playing hide and seek in the gardens, spotting wildlife in the arboretum and looking at the farm animals and the zebras!

It was a lovely day for everyone! - Miss Wilkes



Weston-super-Mare

On Thursday 20th July we took our students to Weston-super-Mare for a fun day at the beach. The pupils had a great time playing in the arcade and eating fish and chips, and the sun shone for us all day. Our pupils were polite, adventurous, and thoroughly enjoyed the sea side experience. We just didn't want to leave! - Miss Powers

I really liked Weston-super-Mare - **Sam S (Yr9)**

I had fun but a lot of walking - **Taylor M (Yr10)**

It was a big place and a good experience. I loved the pier - **Tristan (Yr8)**

It was fun, I enjoyed my day - **Corey (Yr10)**

I thoroughly enjoyed being told off by the sea patrol rescue. It was great to see the students being so independent and getting stuck in the quick sand - **Mr Aimes**

It was a great day, I had lots of fun - **Imani (Yr10)**

It was a good day. The arcade was brilliant - **Sean T (yr10)**

It was amazing getting to go off on our own and being trusted. My favourite part was going on the beach - **Nicole (Yr7)**

I loved making the sand storms with my feet—**Abigail (Yr10)**

I loved eating the donuts at the sea side - **Rebecca S (Yr10)**



Albright Work Experience

"I have enjoyed doing my work experience here at Albright. The staff and students are really friendly.

I have had the opportunity to complete administrative duties across the centre, such as photocopying, cleaning equipment across all departments and cataloguing books.

I was so happy to meet the staff, and also work with some staff who I have known before I started work experience, such as Mrs Dunnaker and Mrs Oakshott-Marston. I even got the opportunity to help other staff around school! I would like to come again one day for Sixth Form. Albright is one of the best schools for alternative provision in the West Midlands.

Thank you for making this possible!"

Fenton (Q3 Academy—Year 10 Pupil)

I've truly enjoyed my work experience at Albright! I have learned a range of different life skills that will benefit me in other areas of my young adult life.

Albright has showed me nothing but kindness and respect, inspiring me to become a better person and look for a career that will allow me to make a positive change in the world.

Having my work experience at Albright has encouraged me to go down the path of working with children, seeing staff truly want what is best for their students and showing determination to help them become better has moved me as this isn't something students in mainstream schools experience.

During my work experience I was given the opportunity of presenting my own lesson to the younger students, I prepped an arts and crafts activity where I was given full responsibility over, being treated like staff has given me an insight on what it is like in the professional world and what I should and shouldn't be doing.

Overall Albright has been a wonderful experience where I've met great people both students and staff that have taught me amazing things. I hope the Albright movement continues to expand helping more people across the country.

Rabiatou Camara (Q3 Academy 6th form Pupil)

Key Dates for your diary

Tuesday 25th July - 12.15pm School Closes for summer holiday.



Monday 4th September - Inset Day.

Tuesday 5th September - School Reopens to all Pupils.

Monday 25th September - Vaccination UK at Albright for Flu Vaccines.

Wednesday 27th September - Theatre Visit for KS3 & Year 10 (Macbeth).

Tuesday 10th October - Vaccination UK at Albright for Flu Vaccine Catch up Session.

Friday 27th October—School Closes for Half Term Holidays.

Monday 30th - Friday 3rd November - Half Term Holiday.