

Albright Times

A message from our Head Teacher

Even by Albright standards, this first full-term has been a hugely busy one!! In fact, I'd go as far as to say in my 21 years of education, I don't think the world of education has been so busy and so difficult to navigate. And so I want to start this off by saying a huge big thank you to everyone at Albright that make it such a wonderful place to be... our brilliant staff (in all roles), our lovely pupils and families, our communities that we serve and the superb agencies that come in to support our children. Regardless of the 'whirlwinds' raging outside – Albright continues to be an oasis of calm and tranquillity.

We started off in September by expanding from one building to three! Taking over the Nursery next door, enabled us to bring our Post 16 provision back on site and allowed us to accommodate the 'bulge' in numbers. Thank you to Mrs Long who largely co-ordinated this and for all her hard work in tripling (!!!) the original number of Post 16 places!! At the same time we set up our new site in West Bromwich, for our younger pupils and those needing a little bit of extra support – Albright Plus. Thank you so much to the team there who have worked tirelessly to get it up and running and have created a lovely, nurturing additional school.

This extra space will go some way to helping meet all of the pupils being referred to us from far and wide (well, from all over Sandwell at least!)

We have continued to offer all of the fabulous enrichment opportunities that our children benefit so much from... Boxing, gardening, cycling, games club... you name it, we've done it! Not only that, we have had a number of trips that have gone out (read all about them in this newsletter!) including our residential trip, which is always so well attended and is a brilliant opportunity for pupils to experience some nights away from home and in the company of Albright friends.

These final few weeks, we have seen a flurry of festive fun – Winter Walks, Pantomime visits, Christmas dinners, Albright Christmas productions, Bauble competitions, Christmas Markets and more besides – it has definitely got us all in the mood for the season – and also, a tiny bit exhausted!!!!

As always, I am so proud of the wonderful provision that is Albright. I want to thank you for your continued support and wish you all the most perfect Christmas break with your family and friends. And remember, in the words of Dr Seuss and The Grinch; 'Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!'

Mrs Hazelwood



Dec 2023

- Albright Plus
- Black History Month
- Enrichment
- Frank Chapman
- Goodbye and Welcome
- Hello Yellow
- Attendance Achievements
- Halloween
- German Market Visit
- Panto
- Buddhist Trip
- High Tea
- Albright University Placements.
- Key Dates

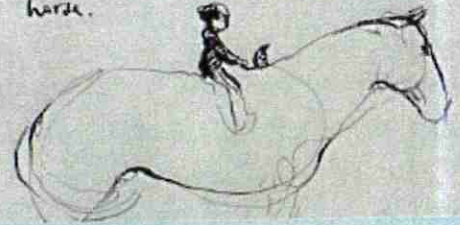




Albright Plus...

On 18th September Albright Plus opened to pupils. We had one small class in one small room of an exciting big school with very empty corridors! Since then, there have been so many amazing changes and so much to celebrate. As we break up for Christmas, and think about the start of a new year, it is a great time to reflect on just how far we've come.

"We have a long way to go" sighed the boy.
"Yes but look how far we have come" said the horse.



The classroom we first moved into has been transformed into a directed play room where pupils have learnt how to set up shops and restaurants (although recently it has been used as our cosy Christmas grotto).

The space is also used for live virtual author visits and Christmas draw-a-longs.



The corridor has been transformed into a space that celebrates our SEMH values, careers, reading and British Values.





The Journey so far!



We are so grateful to Graeme for building us a breakfast bar! Pupils have learnt to make hot chocolate (a must when the class read is *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!*) and decorate gingerbread houses. We use it every day for a snack and a chat.



The biggest change has been opening two distinct classes:

Willow



From an empty hall to a bustling classroom!

Elm



Elm moved down the corridor to a bigger room with a cosy reading corner. We're looking forward to the room having a makeover ready for January.





Albright Plus...

There is so much to celebrate over this term that it is hard to pick out some highlights. We have introduced music into the curriculum, which is proving to be an enormous success, with both classes collaborating to learn how to play the chime bars. Pupils have taught each other how to play a wide range of games and supported each other to develop new skills including yoga, gymnastics and weaving. We have been using our morning sessions to learn more about the world and enjoyed clips from Planet Earth III (we were fascinated to find out just how many jobs there can be on a caving expedition). The pupils should be proud of learning to tell the time and measure the lengths of different animals—we found out that we could just about fit a blue whale in the corridor! New friendships have been formed and new challenges have been faced.



It is also time to say goodbye to two pupils who have been with us from the start of the Albright Plus journey. Kei and Aliza are starting new adventures in January and we wish them all the best for the future. We can't wait to find out about all their successes!





The Journey so far!

There is always something new to look forward to at Albright and we are excited to welcome new members of staff to the team when our Key Stage 1 class opens in January. In addition, we can't wait to launch our new challenge:

10 Things To Do Before You Leave



- 1 Play a new game
- 2 Solve a puzzle
- 3 Find a new story you love
- 4 Make new friends
- 5 Explore a new place
- 6 Create something you are proud of
- 7 Play an instrument
- 8 Ask good questions
- 9 Try a new physical activity
- 10

I love the sensory room and the lessons. People are kind and helpful and I like the way the lights dim in the classrooms— Bonnie

I like the rooms, the light and the windows—Zac

I like it, it is small and less crowded.—Willow

- Mrs Crutch



Black History Month October 2023

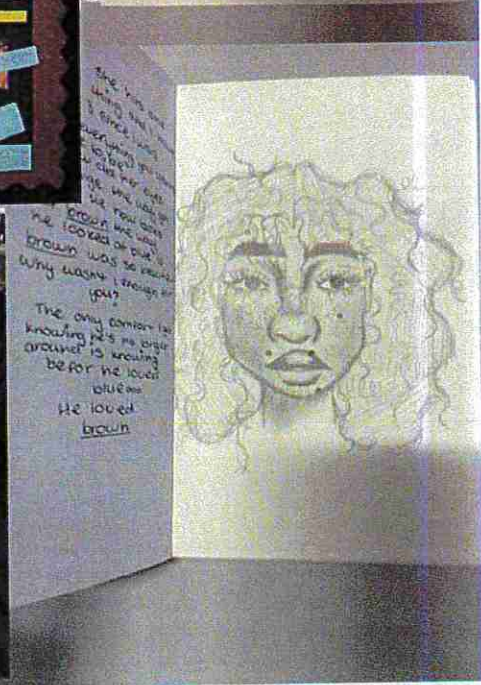
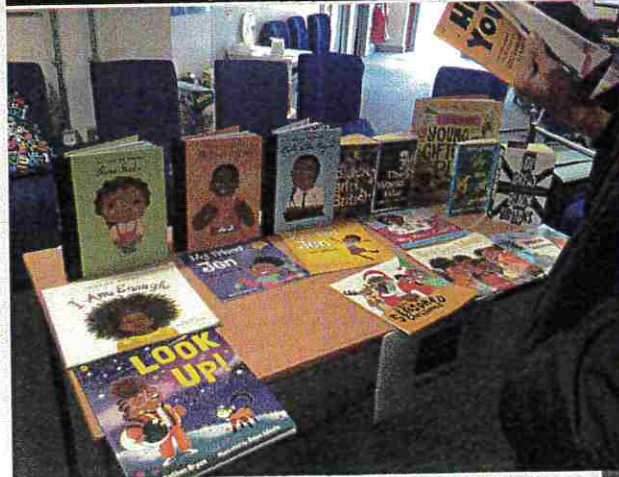
For Black History Month Albright students were introduced to Jean Michel Basquiat and celebrated his expressive artwork. They explored his famous 1984 'Pez Dispenser' artwork and created observational responses using oil pastel and paints. His artwork and interesting story sparked interest amongst our Year 10 Level 1 students, where they continued to develop their knowledge throughout lessons and produced some artist boards to show off their responses.

To raise Basquiat's profile and keep him as a talking point throughout the month Miss Mclean set up a scavenger hunt using his trademark crown for students to share some knowledge and collect a prize. This really engaged pupils across centre - maybe the appeal of a sweet treat encouraged them to get involved but I will take this as a win for the Art department!

We had some beautiful artwork shared by one of our Year 10 GCSE students, celebrating the beauty of black women, which reinforces the idea of self-love and is great to see. Well Done Sophia!

Celebrations continued outside of lesson time and Miss Smith kindly shared some of her books with the school community to help develop knowledge and share some wonderful stories from black authors, illustrators and creative. Thank you, Miss Smith for giving up your break times to share your collection.

- Miss Mclean



Enrichment



This Autumn term, our pupils have once again immersed themselves in a variety of enriching activities on their Friday afternoons. Some have developed a love for the outdoors with some 'green-fingered' pupils giving our planters some love, whilst others have enjoyed some cycling. We have also seen pupils engage in Boxing, courtesy of BoxClever Mentoring, and others have been stealthily crafting the Christmas Production that we're sure will rival The Nutcracker! All activities have given us yet more opportunity to witness how resilient, creative and curious our pupils are. — Miss Powers

Extracting DNA from Fruit- I would recommend this enrichment if you want to do science experiments without the lesson before it – Taylor



I found making slime really fun because I got to do it with my best friend, I had doubts at first but it ended up great. I gave it 10/10.

– Tristan



Frank Chapman Residential

In November we took almost 30 students to Frank Chapman for three days and two nights. The students had opportunity to try a range of new activities including climbing, abseiling, archery, caving and orienteering. All the students gave the activities a good go and if they felt they couldn't complete the activity they were there to cheer on the others. We were very proud of how mature and independent they were in making up and stripping their own beds and that they were inclusive of others at all times. For many this was their first time spending a night away from home! A special shout out to Tristan and Taylor for achieving the highest number of crates stacked on the high ropes challenge.—Mrs Tymoshyshyn



"It was quite fun for the abseiling and going 'Blind' through the forest while supposedly Miss Powers was putting leaves in my face." – Nuo Yr8

"I found that it was very fun having 3 days with my friends and favourite teachers. It was very good."
– Shelbie Yr11

"I really enjoyed Frank Chapman, especially the archery, the staff were great and the food was amazing"
– Summer Yr10

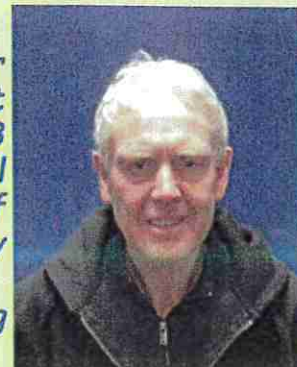


Goodbye & Good Luck



We were very sad to say goodbye to Pat, one of our minibus drivers earlier in the term, Pat had worked at Albright for the past 9 years. At the grand age of 73 decided it was time to retire; to slow down and take a well deserved rest. However, it will not be the last we see of Pat, as he will be covering the other drivers during any periods of absence.

We wish Pat all our best wishes, but look forward to seeing him back at Centre in the future.



And say a Welcome to...

As we say goodbye to Pat, we are also welcoming five new members of staff. Paul our new minibus driver started at Albright this term, many of our students will be familiar with Paul already, as well as many parents and carers. Along with Paul, Mrs Neale will be joining Albright Plus as an Early Years Techer, Mr Plant and Mrs Morley will be joining Albright Academy-our main site as a Maths and English Teacher respectively. Last but not by any means least Miss Warwick will be joining Albright Plus as a Learning Support Practitioner. We look forward to welcoming them to the Albright Family, I am sure they will be very happy here.



Hello Yellow - 10th October 2023

What a day Hello Yellow Day was! It was amazing to see so many students and staff participate in wearing yellow, to raise awareness of young people's mental health. Young Minds is a charity dedicated to ensuring that no young person feels alone with their mental health and given the nature of Albright, this is something that we care so strongly about. It was utterly amazing to see Albright unite in yellow!



I would personally like to thank you for any donations that were made. It was extremely kind of so many of you to voluntarily donate and all proceeds will go straight to Young Minds, to support the amazing work of this charity. There are lots of free resources and advice available on the Young Minds website, should you or anyone you know need advice or support. Thanks again for your continued support.—Mrs Francis

Attendance Achievements



Congratulations to the following pupils who have Successfully met the Attendance Target this term.

KS3/4 -

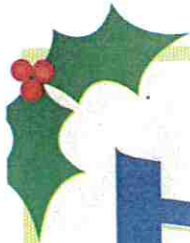
Tyler Brookes, Nuo Chen, Molly Glover, Pippa Harris, Leah –Rose Joseph, Kashvi Kharel, Veronika Kretkowska, Georgis McWilliams, Dornika Seraj, Breanne Whitehouse, Summer Powell, Sam Smith, Sophie Pipe, Jayden Spooner, Trey Burell, Leah Burden and Corey Whitehead.

Post 16-

Ethan Haynes, Ross Lovatt, Jnay Shaw, Chelsea Brayne

Albright Plus-

Willow Brunt, Khari Campbell, Abdullah Shaikh, Ekambir Uppal.

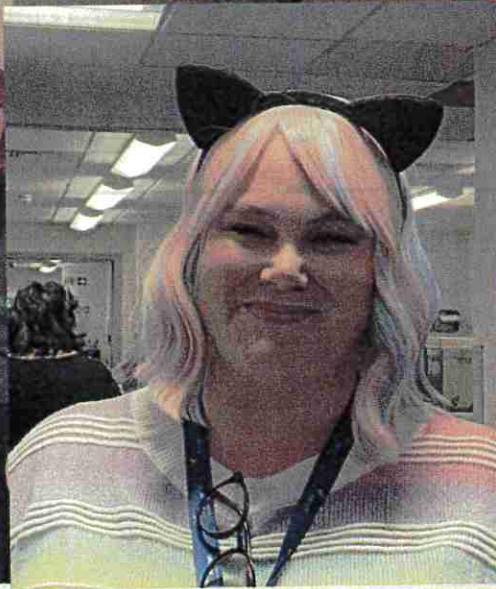
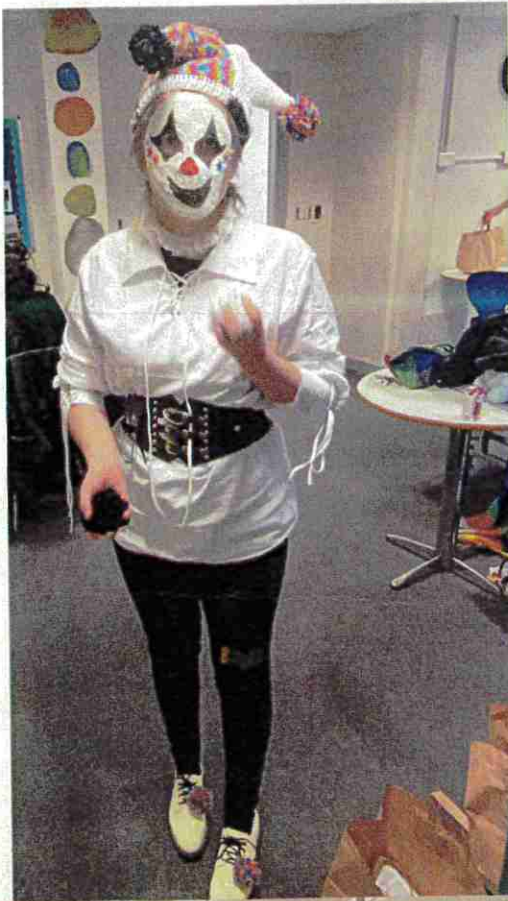


Halloween

For Halloween this year students were set a challenge for the best Halloween fancy dress.

Lots of students got into the spooky spirit and stepped up to the challenge.

Well done to Corey in Year 11 for the most individual costume.—Miss Mclean





German Market

We had multiple Christmas activities on the last week of term, including a visit to the German Market in Birmingham to share in the delights of the festive season. Students got to see the mechanical bull in festive attire, all the decorations around Birmingham and some even saw Santa himself!

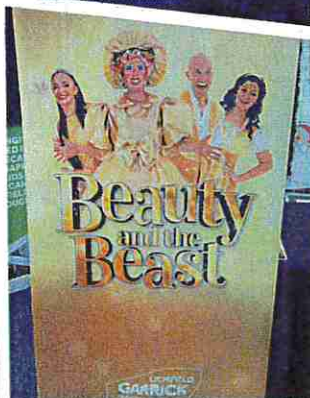
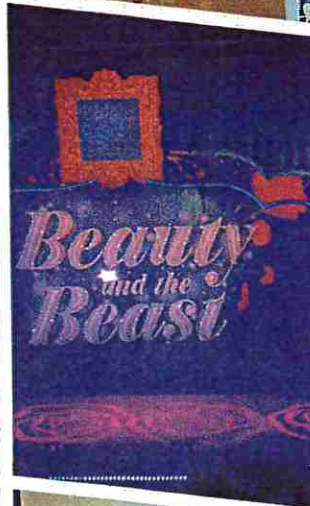
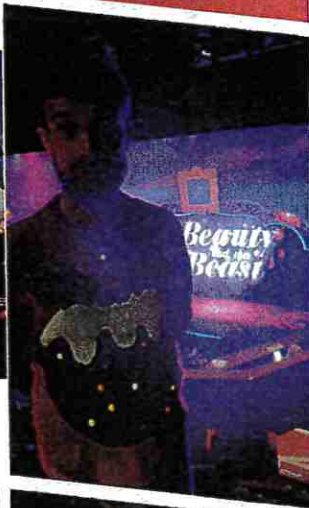
The students really enjoyed the day, it was nice to see so many of the students having fun outside of the classroom and celebrating the magic of Christmas together.

I would like to give a big shout out to Jayden as he had never been on a train, or visited a station and had never visited Birmingham before. Well done Jayden!!!



Panto - Beauty and the Beast

Last week the pupils travelled to Lichfield Garrick theatre to watch a performance of Beauty and the Beast. It was a spectacular pantomime and the pupils had a wonderful time, staff commented on the pupils' excellent behaviour. Thank you to all involved—Mr Downey



Buddhist Temple Visit

On Tuesday 24th October Albright students in year 10 and Key Stage 3 visited Birmingham Buddhist Vihara temple. We went to learn more about the Buddhism faith and temple. As part of our E&E lessons we have been learning about the Buddhist faith. The Vihara has become one of the major centres in the West Midlands teaching about the Buddhism faith. Buddhism is increasingly used in religious studies when comparing alternative religions, therefore individuals who need information and guidance can visit the temple.

Students took a keen interest in listening to the key speaker at the Vihara Temple. They welcomed the opportunity to wander at leisure to discover the building and artefacts on display. This was a valuable experience that the students gained first-hand. - Mrs Hayer

I really enjoyed it because I learnt loads of new things and had a great experience. - Tristan Yr 9

We had to take our shoes off when we got there to go in and meet Max, who was the person telling us about the Buddhist religion, such as, people offer water, flour, gold and food. There were a lot of things made out of gold, and there are laws you have to follow at the first stage there are only 5 but as you progress you have to follow more. - Nuo Yr 8

It was a medium length trip with nice views and when we got to the beautiful, peaceful pergola we were greeted by a man who was very kind and welcoming, we ended up having a great time. - Felix Yr 10



High Tea

High tea was served to our Senior Leaders at Albright this term, as part of their BTEC Level 2 Hospitality course work, the Albright catering company (ACC) planned, prepared, cooked and served the spectacular spread. Students excelled in their delivery and worked exceptionally well as a team.

A huge congratulations for a successful event, Well done ACC, and get ready for your next event... a conference buffet for SLT and the Admin Team.
- Mrs Parker



Albright University Placement



This term we hosted Primary PGCE students from Birmingham Newman University for a two week placement. During this time they got to experience all of the different elements of life at Albright including trips to Albright Plus, working with Post 16 students and seeing our hospital provision. This gave them an opportunity to explore an alternative education setting and see if this is something they'd like to pursue later in their career.

We're passionate about new and trainee teachers experiencing Albright first-hand, and there will be visits from others later on in the year. This is what the students had to say:

"I truly loved my time at Albright, you were all so welcoming, especially KS3 A. It has been lovely getting to know you all and I will miss not coming to Albright. Your school gave me a well round perspective into the pedagogy I want to enforce when I have my own class. Mrs Parker I will truly miss your breakfasts in the mornings as well as all the staff that made the toast at break time, you all truly made me feel like I was a part of the staff. I really appreciate it. Your school feels like one big family, and this is really something special to have, all schools should be the same. So, I just wanted to say a big thank you to you all for having me there and I will be seeing you all again at the end of term for you Christmas production."

Miss Jordan (Newman University)

"My time at Albright Education Centre was truly inspiring, and I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to spend 2 weeks here, although I wish I could've stayed longer. The atmosphere in the centre was so relaxed, welcoming, and nurturing and I learnt so much. The children (shoutout to KS3 B) and all of the staff made me feel like I was part of the Albright family, and that made my experience even better than I could've imagined. It certainly is a time within my training that I won't forget in a hurry, and I will aim to carry the ethos of Albright, and creating opportunities for all children, with me throughout the whole of my career. I cannot wait to return at Christmas to see the famous Mr Downey production, and hopefully have one of Mrs Parker's cheese toasties again!"

Miss Jones (Newman University)

"My time at Albright Education centre enabled me to gain a lifetime worth of skills to bring into my own future profession. It has given me the opportunity to work alongside experienced teachers, SENCOS, designated safeguarding leads, external agencies and support staff who were all very welcoming. Throughout my placement I was mainly working with Yr 10B who I will miss dearly as I really felt a part of their class. During the two weeks I was there I gained an insight into another pathway which I may embark on in the future such as; the hospital school provision which is where a teacher goes to visit any sick children and can provide them with some work or mini lessons so that they don't fall too far behind with their school work. Overall, I have had an amazing time at Albright and I would like to say a big thank you to the school for having me and treating me as a part of the Albright team. I will also be looking forward to returning on the last day of term to watch the Christmas production and see all of the students and staff again."

Miss Bromley (Newman University)



Key Dates for your diary

Thursday 21st December - Staff Training Day, School is closed to all pupils

Friday 22nd December - Staff Training Day, school is closed to all pupils and School Closes for Christmas Holiday.

Monday 25th December - Friday 5th December - Christmas Holiday

Monday 8th January - School Reopens.

Friday 9th February –School Closes for Half Term Holiday.

Monday 19th February - School Reopens.

Thursday 7th February - World Book Day

Friday 22nd March - School Closes for Easter Holidays

