

# The Albany News**letter**

ISSUE 1 ● JANUARY 2023



## WELCOME TO OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



### Message from Interim Headteacher Darryl James

Welcome to the very first newsletter from The Albany School. As the Interim Headteacher, I am keen to ensure that communication between parents, carers and the school is strong and so this newsletter is designed to help

provide information to parents and carers on both national, local and school related matters as we work together in partnership.

The first key piece of information to share is that Jane Reason has retired from her post at The Albany School as Executive Headteacher. Jane has served as the leader of The Albany since 2012 and so we wish her a well-earned, restful and happy retirement.

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## STUDENTS ARE STAR BAKERS

Knowing how to prepare and cook your own food is a skill that everyone should possess. It's also a fun skill to learn! At The Albany, teaching children how to prepare fresh, healthy food is a skill that can be used both inside and outside the classroom, and is something that will last a lifetime.

This month our students have continued to enjoy their cooking lessons. With the colder weather we have seen requests from the students for support in helping them cook some great heartwarming comfort food which has included pizzas, macaroni cheese, brownies and even a full roast dinner in a giant Yorkshire pudding. Cooking is a skill for life and we look forward to seeing what comes out of the Albany kitchen next month.



Another exciting development to notify you of is the School Council. Last term, students were nominated by each class to sit on the Council and represent their respective classes. The purpose of the group is to allow students an opportunity to have a voice and work positively with school leaders in changing different elements of the school. There will be a regular section in this

newsletter where you can see what the Council has been involved in so far.

Achieving qualifications is something we are keen for students to experience whilst at The Albany, not least because it boosts self-esteem and provides them with something that may support transition back into mainstream or progression on to a

new school or college.

This term we will be running an assessment week for all classes to sit Functional Skills assessments. To enable the invigilation of these assessments the school will open at a later time of 11:00 every day for those not sitting assessments, which will start at 08:45. We will be in contact when the dates of the assessments are finalised.



## Physical and mental benefits of the gym

Physical activity is not only good for your body, but it's also great for your mind. Being active releases chemicals in your brain that make you feel good - boosting your self-esteem and helping you concentrate as well as sleep well and feel better

Each day a different group is taken to the gym at Bury Rugby Club. In the sessions they have been working with Louise on circuit and resistance training. The KS4 students have been completing the ASDAN award in sport. This includes physical and theory work.

## Is your child entitled to FREE school meals?

Your child will get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit but no element of Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenues & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- If you are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work fewer hours per week
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (£616.67 per month), as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).



Registering is quick and easy, so if you think you qualify, visit Suffolk County Council's website or call 0345 606 6067 for advice.



## What is Pupil Premium?

The Government gives funding to schools to provide additional support for children from lower income families who are, or who have been, on free school meals.

The Albany will receive additional funding from The Government and with this money we can improve and update the resources your child is able to use in school and create opportunities to access a variety of additional support and provision.

**Please register if you are eligible, so your child doesn't miss out.**

## Blue Class

Blue class have been studying fractions, decimals and percentages to start the term in Maths. We have used online reading and comprehension tools in English, such as Lexia PowerUp, as well as analysing news sources and purpose/audience of text. Food chains and webs has been the focus in Science, where we have discovered the relationships between predator and prey, along with factors affecting the success of a species. Pupils have all engaged well in online assessment tools such as BKSB, where working levels and grades are provided. The focus of PHSE has been the value and importance of money, and whether money makes people happier or not.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, Blue have engaged in football and basketball at the park, badminton at Rougham village hall, Shuffle board game cafe in town, art & music sessions, and Forest Schools outdoors just to name a few.

It has been a successful start to the new year, and we all look forward to furthering this after half-term.

## Silver Class

2023 a new year and a new teacher for Silver Class! Getting into new routines and new ways of working, Silver class have risen to new

challenges across the curriculum. In English, we have been developing our vocabulary for creative writing opportunities as well as practicing some core grammar and punctuation skills through Lexia. In PSHE, I have been impressed by the thoughtful discussions around money and wellbeing. Rachael always compliments Silver class too for their perseverance in Maths, showing off their rapid times table knowledge. We are looking forward to the rest of the year!

## Yellow Class

This new year yellow class have been successfully completing their first round of functional skills exams. In Maths we have been covering Fractions, Decimals and Percentages and using this information to solve real world problems. Yellow have also been revising hard in Science ready for their first written Chemistry assessment.

Yellow have started Forest School this half term and have been working with Maxwell clearing part of the wooded area ready to build a poly tunnel in the coming weeks. At the gym, Louise has been putting them through their paces with some intensive circuit training. They may have been complaining of sore muscles the next day but it was all work towards their ASDAN in Sport. Some of Yellow have discovered a

new sport in Bouldering. They've been working on discovering this new skill at Stowmarket leisure centre with Sue on Mondays. They have had a great start to the new term and are looking forward to their next challenge.

## Pink Class

Pink have had a roller coaster of a term so far and have had moments of absolute bliss. The class have smashed Maths out of the park this term and have even managed pressurised maths code breaking tasks. Who knew we had such amazing chefs too! Some comments from staff are "better than restaurants" and "mouthwatering". What can I say? Let's keep it up Pink!

## Purple Class

This half term purple have been working very hard on their English using the Lexia programme. Each student has engaged and made progress. In Maths we have been learning about area, estimating, rounding, fractions and decimals. During the afternoons during challenge the students have been taking part cooking, the gym, cycling, squash and badminton. During PSHRE and SEMH lessons purple class have been exploring anxiety, attachment and emotions. The class have improved their speaking and listening skills by talking about these issues. Well done purple class!

## The Albany SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are delighted to announce that the Albany School Council is now up and running, the aim of which is to capture the student voice, enabling us to respond to the needs and views of every pupil in our school community.

School Council is made up of 6 elected students, one from each class and the weekly meetings are chaired by a member of the senior leadership team. We are very proud of the ideas they have put forward so far, and of the maturity they have demonstrated in feeding back to their class groups.

### Changes which have been implemented so far:

- Healthy breakfast options: we now offer a range of fresh fruit in the morning in addition to toast and cereal
- New football goal
- Celebrating achievement; Merit system leading to an end of week reward for the class who have achieved the most.

- School council members showing visitors around the school.
- Recycling boxes being installed in each class.

**We will keep you updated and supply photos in future editions of the newsletter, watch this space!**

Safer Internet Day 2023 will take place this year on the 7th of February 2023, with celebrations and learning based around the theme **‘Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online’**.



The internet plays a huge part in the lives of young people today, with many playing online games, posting on social media, and using video sharing platforms. It can be used positively, helping young people learn new skills, express themselves creatively and strengthen social bonds. However, the use of many popular online platforms has also been linked to low self-esteem and anxiety. They also come with a set of safeguarding risks, from the pressure to participate in dangerous challenges to cyberbullying.

understand however the as parents/ carers that you may have questions yourself. There are lots of online resources that can help you with setting up controls on devices your children use that connect to the internet and the potential dangers that are out there.

Here are some links to some useful resources.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

As a school we will promote internet safety week and be available to answer questions the students may have. We

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parental-controls-offered-by-your-home-internet-provider>

**If you have any concerns** about your child’s internet activity, then please contact Nancy Sinclair, Designated Safeguarding Lead at The Albany, who will be able to support you and offer advice. Telephone 01284 754065

## Transport information

The Local Authority may support transport to and from The Albany for students living further than 3 miles away. We fund any additional costs for transport to vocational placements where necessary.

The Albany uses Suffolk County Council approved taxi companies. If your child is unwell or not able to attend school, we would be very grateful if you could contact the taxi company in the first instance to cancel transport. Please let the school know that your child will not be attending school by calling the office on 01284 754065 Option 1, with your name, students name and reason for absence. Thank you.

A2B Taxi:	07944 391947
First Stop:	01284 766766
M&L Taxi's:	07884154906
PTS Taxi:	01284 769308
Newtax:	01638 720720
Fox Cars:	01787 881212
Star Travel:	01440 707070

## COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Communication is central to our partnership with parents and carers. If you have any concerns, questions or would like an update on your child’s progress please do not hesitate to contact us, we are always happy to chat over the phone, by email or text. In addition, you are very welcome to visit the school.

## Severe weather and school closures

If there is significant snow on a school morning, tune in to BBC Radio Suffolk or Heart FM for up-to-the minute information on school closures. Text messages will also be sent to all parents/ carers to inform of the school closure and transport will also be cancelled. Your child must not travel to school. If we have heavy, sustained snow during the day when everyone is already in school, we will contact you via text/telephone call with information on early closure arrangements.