

RAEDWALD TRUST

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024

RIDING TO VICTORY

Alderwood
pupil wins
two rosettes

ROYAL NOTES

Students win
music award

BEING THANKFUL

Messages
of positivity

ACADEMIC

EXCELLENCE!

Ofsted heap praise on staff and leaders at Westbridge Academy



INSPECTORS were effusive in their praise of staff and leaders at Westbridge Academy following a recent visit.

Westbridge maintained its good rating, but inspectors said their next visit could result in an outstanding judgment.

They said students arrive with a poor attendance rate, having experienced significant disruption and often with a negative view of school.

At Westbridge they receive “exceptional” support and guidance from teachers who “care deeply”, helping to turn their lives around.

The glowing report stated: “Pupils said they join the school as a ‘nobody’ but leave as a ‘somebody’, as they rediscover their identity, experiencing daily success.

“Pupils receive an education that is precisely designed to meet

their needs. Their aspirations are raised no end.”

“Pupils learn to take responsibility for their own behaviour, learn an ambitious curriculum from expert teachers and are supported to return to mainstream education.

“They learn life skills needed for adulthood and as a consequence are better equipped to succeed in the world.”

Headteacher Emily Duque, said: “I could not be prouder to be part of such an amazing team, not only at Westbridge Academy, but also across our wider trust.

“This report is testament to the unwavering commitment of our staff who work tirelessly and collaboratively to support, motivate, and engage our young people. It is an absolute pleasure and privilege to serve our young people and I would like to thank them

from the bottom of my heart.”

CEO of the Raedwald Trust Angela Ransby said: “As a collection of schools we work incredibly hard to provide the very best possible education for the young people in our care.

“We recruit only the most dedicated and talented staff and take great care to train them to meet the needs of our children.

“We spend a lot of time designing and delivering a curriculum tailored to their specific needs, making sure it’s not just effective but also inclusive and supportive.

“As this Ofsted report rightly points out, this is vital work, crucial to the development chances of these young people.

“When you get it right, like it so clearly has been here at Westbridge Academy, the transformation is truly life changing.”

Victory for young student at horse riding centre

A PUPIL at Alderwood Academy competed at a local horse riding centre.

The student rode her pony

Jerry at Copdock Riding Centre. They performed really well and won two rosettes.



GETTING BUSY IN THE KITCHEN

YOUNG people have been getting a taste of life as a chef.

The pupils at Parkside KS4 have been cooking up a storm by making tasty canapes, giving them an insight into careers within the catering industry.

Claire Guernari, Teacher, said: "We have created canapes such as Yorkshire puddings with bacon and a pea puree, mini berry tarts, gougères and mini tacos."



Chocolate pancakes!

ONE of our KS2 students made chocolate pancakes from scratch and added squirty cream and strawberries.

They took orders from staff and individually made a plate for each of them.

The student made more than 12 pancakes and everyone seemed impressed by the size, taste and presentation of each plate, there was no pancake left un-eaten!

Our KS2 pupil also took some home for her family to enjoy.



Having a whale of a time in Felixstowe!

CHILDREN at First Base Ipswich enjoyed a special trip to Felixstowe beach as part of their local area topic.

They have been looking at the story 'The Storm Whale' by Benji Davies and have been describing a beach setting.

The children had the opportunity to dip their toes in the sea and

enjoyed eating fish and chips.

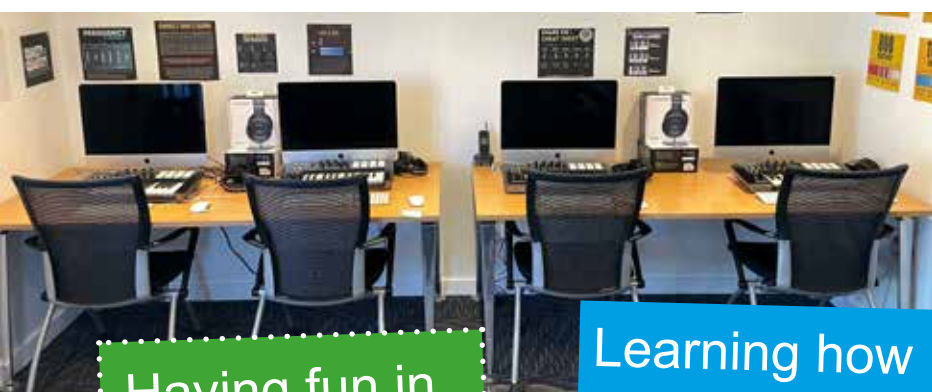
Class teacher Jessica Ellery said: "The trip was beneficial as it enabled them to see a real life version of the setting they had looked at in the story.

"It supported them to learn how to be safe in public. The children loved it and already want to go back."



MUSICAL

AWARDS



Having fun in PE sessions

STUDENTS have been learning about how to be safe on a scooter in their PE sessions.

The children at Alderwood Academy spent some time learning the rules of safe scooting and they also enjoyed learning how to play basketball.

The children learned how to use the equipment properly and safely, what protective gear to wear to keep them safe at all times and how to store and put away the scooters.

They were engaged and excited to learn and keep fit.

Learning how to make music

ONE student has worked hard this year in music production and has received an arts award.

The student at Park-side KS4 has been developing skills in music production such as music arrangements, using music software, exploring sounds with loops and samples and songwriting.

The student was able to create short original pieces of music with the use of loops and samples.

The student's portfolio was submitted to London Trinity College and they passed their bronze arts award qualification.

Students win composition award from The Royal College of Music

THE hard work has paid off for three students who received a very special award.

The KS3 students from Alderwood Academy received an award from the Royal College of Music for composing a piece of music for a film.

Ellen Whight, Welfare and Safeguarding,, said: "All three students thoroughly enjoy music with Gil Walters, the Trust's Music Teacher and were thrilled that they had won.

"One pupil said that they didn't think they would win and was so excited to tell their parents of their achievement.

"Alderwood is extremely proud of all three students who participated and were put forward for the award. Each student is very talented and clearly showed this with their musical pieces."

Kris completes first year on ECT programme

KRIS Butler, Teacher at Alderwood Academy, has completed the first year of his Early Career Teaching Programme (ECT).

Kris joined the Raedwald Trust just over a year ago, having completed his SCITT training at Claydon High School.

Prior to that Kris had worked in secondary schools for a number of years.

Kris joined Alderwood Academy

in September and has been teaching the KS3 group there this academic year with

responsibility for the delivery of maths and English on the Building Pathway.

He has been following the programme delivered through Ambition

Institute and Unity Teaching

School Hub this

academic year.



This programme involves Kris completing an online weekly module, all of which have a different focus (behaviour, instruction, subject) alongside the weekly monitoring visits and meetings with his mentor.

Kris's final end-of-year report has just been submitted and the induction period has been completed.

Well done Kris!

SAFEGUARDING ALERT



Be aware of the rise in AI-powered 'undress' apps and websites



PARENTS are being warned about an increase in AI Undress apps.

Undress AI is a genre of apps that uses artificial intelligence to alter videos or images.

It describes a type of tool that uses artificial intelligence to remove clothes off individuals in images.

Although the manipulated image isn't actually showing the victim's real nude body, it can imply this. An example of an AI undress app is pictured left.

The images produced on the websites and apps may be referred to as 'deep nudes' or 'deep fakes.' Creating a deep nude or deep fake image of someone without their consent is illegal.

More information for pupils and parents can be found on the Internet Matters website.

If you become aware of a deep nude or deep fake situation over the summer holidays please inform Suffolk Constabulary by either calling 101 or reporting online.

Pupils learn about bullying and hate crime

A COMMUNITY police officer paid a visit to Alderwood Academy to talk to students.

PC Lucy Rout spoke with KS2 and KS3 students about bullying and hate crime. She also spoke about being safe in school and within the local community.

They were advised who to

contact if they felt they were in danger and they were also given the opportunity to have a play with a set of handcuffs.

Lucy said: "The session went really well and the children listened and asked lots of really good questions.

"It was beneficial to come in

and speak with our young people in regards to these topics as sometimes they forget that these things can really upset someone.

"It was helpful to learn what the consequences to their actions are so it was a good, positive reminder for them."



STUDENTS have been benefiting from practical courses at Parkside KS4. The young people experienced the courses which were offered through Eastern Regional Training. They enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the technicalities surrounding nail art.

BEING THANKFUL

Chaplin and pupils write positive messages about things they are thankful for

STUDENTS and staff have been getting creative and spreading positive messages.

One of the Trust's Chaplain's Abi, designed a positive message for pupils and staff at Alderwood Academy which read: 'I'm thankful today for sunshine,

what about you?'

KS3 Haven pupils and staff got involved and wrote things like "Thankful for no hay fever today", "Thankful for science lessons and video games", "Coffee and cake" and "Health, sunshine

and life".

The idea encouraged people to stop and think about what they are thankful for and see what others find thankful and take the time to appreciate those things we may take for granted.

Positive feedback on safety in school

PUPIL voice feedback has shown that 100 per cent of pupils feel safe at Westbridge Academy.

The survey showed there were lots of positive comments about the school and the experience that pupils have had.

Headteacher Emily Duque said: "It is incredible to receive such fantastic feedback from our students and to know that they experience a positive and safe learning environment.

"Staff work tirelessly getting to know our students and working

with them to achieve success.

"Many of our pupils have arrived prior to their placement with us with low attendance and all have made significant improvements with their attendance.

"Students need to be provided with meaningful opportunities to share their experiences, views and hopes about their school.

"They need to know that it is safe and that it is important for them to express their views on what happens at school."



Pupils in Thrive enjoyed using chalk to create a mindfulness collage.

MENTAL HEALTH

IN FOCUS

Looking out for the mental health of our young people



STAFF at West Suffolk Hospital School have been focusing on the mental health of their patients.

Staying in hospital can be a stressful, emotional and unsettling time so staff in the hospital school offer a range of supporting activities as well as the academic lessons they teach.

This term patients have engaged in a range of activities, getting outside as much as is possible including playing in outdoor areas, making use of the new bas-

ketball post funded by the hospital charity Wish. They also decorated and distributed cheerful pebble art in the hospital outdoor spaces for other patients to come across.

They collected flowers and created living artwork to display, designed and produced cards to share out thoughts and feelings with others and created collages and art work as a means of relaxing and reducing anxiety.

Teacher Nicola Edwards said: "The patients really

appreciate time away from their beds and the ward, especially when some are admitted for long spells of time.

"The medical staff encourage patients to spend time out of their beds and it can help with a quicker discharge for them.

"Being able to spend time with nature and away from the monotony of their beds helps patients feel positive and provides the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings."

Going green for mental health awareness week

STAFF wore green to raise awareness about mental health.

To mark Mental Health Awareness Week which runs every year, Mental Health First Aiders work across the trust to coordinate the event.

At Westbridge, staff wore green to show support. They ran a mindful session in the afternoon with mindful music playing in the background where they took part in mindful activities while using

prompt cards to start conversations around mental health.

All staff and students took part and found the experience really beneficial.

Headteacher Emily Duque said: "It was good to take time to focus on our wellbeing and students took home ideas of how they can continue with mindful activities at home.

"Many people who practice mindfulness report an increased ability to relax, a greater enthusiasm for life and

improved self-esteem - it can help us enjoy life more and understand ourselves better."



GROWING INTEREST

Children at St Christopher's have been enjoying learning about gardening

AS PART of the new Health and Wellbeing curriculum being offered on the Next Steps Medical pathway, students have been learning new skills in a variety of topics, one of which is gardening.

Across three lessons, the pupils learned how to grow salad crops from seed in three different growing environments.

They then monitored the progress of their seedlings to determine which growing environment produced the best crop.

Teacher Lauren Hunwicks said: "Cucumbers in soil did particularly well. One student enjoyed this so much they gathered some gardening materials at home."

IN GARDENING!



Street food gives a taste of different cultures

STAFF and pupils prepared street food and learnt more about different cultures around the world.

The pupils at Westbridge Academy prepared different dishes as part of their end of topic celebration.

They had a picnic and sat outside in the shade enjoying food

and saying goodbye to the Year 11 cohort.

Headteacher Emily Duque said: "The students enjoyed developing their culinary skills and experiencing different flavours and combinations of food.

"They liked making street food as it could be eaten on the go. By making the recipes them-

selves, they have learned that snacks can be made at home, rather than buying processed food out and about.

"Students enjoyed speaking with staff about their connections to other cultures and learnt a lot. It was really lovely for staff and students to come together and celebrate this topic."