



The Bridge Short Stay School
Appleton Drive, Ellesmere Port,
Cheshire, CH65 7EP

Tel: 0151 337 6873
enquiries@thebridge.cheshire.sch.uk

our reference

your reference:

please ask for:
Andy Stewart

date:
12/4/2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your child have enjoyed a relaxing, if somewhat rainy, Spring holiday. As we start a new term I'm writing to provide you with a number of updates to keep you informed of what is going on in school. There have been a couple of changes in staffing over the last term, my appointment as the permanent Headteacher has been confirmed and Mr Lee Muckley has left his post as Teaching Assistant to take up a charity role working with veterans of the armed forces, we wish him well in this new post.

As always, last term was a busy one with a number of new students starting with us. We also said goodbye to several young people who have moved on, returning to mainstream schools or into specialist settings with Education Health Care Plans. We look forward to hearing stories of how well they are doing in their new settings. During the last term we again welcomed visitors as part of the Drive Project from Blesma, a charity that supports members of the armed forces who have lost limbs. Visitors to both our sites proved incredibly inspirational, with remarkable stories of resilience in the face of adversity that will stay with our students for a long time. We were also successful in our bid to adopt a stretch of the canal which will provide valuable opportunities for students to get involved in a community project in developing the site to support tourism in the local area.

During the last term the school entered into partnership with the Cheshire Vale Teaching School Alliance, opening up opportunities for our staff to work with those from other local schools and be involved in training future generations of teachers, giving them the experience of working in this unique field. We have also become one of a select number of members of the local young chamber of commerce. This will give our students access to a number of local employers and enterprise opportunities, supporting them in their development in being ready to go out into the world of work.

This next term is obviously one of great importance to our Key Stage 4 students as they complete exams and finalise plans for life after school. Please read and make sure your child understands the information that has been sent about exam regulations as it is vitally

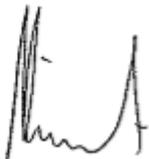
important they comply with these. We look forward to working with students in the build up to these exams to make sure they can demonstrate the best of themselves in these. During recent mock exams it was wonderful to see how respectfully the younger students behaved in order to ensure they didn't cause disruption to exams and we thank you in advance for your support in ensuring this continues through the summer exams.

Raising attendance remains a key priority for us as a school and I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of regular and prompt school attendance. The national average for attendance is over 95% and we set this as a target for all of our students. Attendance dropping even to 90% means that a student will have missed 19 days in a year and 95 days throughout their secondary education which does impact on the results they are able to obtain. Can I also remind you that parents do have a legal responsibility to ensure their child's attendance and failure to do so can result in the issue of fixed penalty notices or prosecution. We are currently finalising updates to our attendance policy and procedures and will be in touch with the details of these during the next term.

Finally can I also remind you to look at our website for regular updates, including copies of any letters that have been sent out: www.thebridge.cheshire.sch.uk We have recently added, under the parents section a 'teen translation tool' which explains a number of commonly used abbreviations and 'text speak' which may help with understanding any messages that appear on your child's devices and whether or not they should raise any concern.

School resumes for staff and students on Monday 16th April, half term is the week of the 28th May, returning 4th June. We are closed for a staff training on Monday 2nd July, before finishing for the summer on Tuesday 24th July. We look forward to seeing your child next week.

With Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A Stewart', written in a cursive style.

Mr A Stewart

Headteacher