



"Staff share high aspirations for all" - GFAPS, Ofsted 2022

"Highly skilled specialist teachers help pupils to re-engage with learning" – SCAPS, Ofsted 2019

Parent & Carer Newsletter

Easter 2026



As always, it has been incredibly busy across the school over the last two terms. As we approach the end of term 4, it is lovely to see the sun is starting to shine after a very wet few months.



We welcomed a number of new staff to the school over the last 2 terms and are delighted to have them as part of Altus team. It has been lovely to hear about how well they are settling in and building positive relationships with our children.



A favourite annual event is the whole school celebration of **World Book Day**, and as usual, this provides our staff with the perfect opportunity to dress up! It was a hard-fought competition but Rutherford House were eventually declared 'best dressed' for their Harry Potter themed day. We were visited by Alex McIntyre, our local Gloucester MP, that day and I think a tour conducted by Dumbledore was probably a first for him!



This year is the **National Year of Reading** and there are lots of planned activities to promote reading across the school. At Russet House a new library has been developed which is enjoyed by students, and staff have set up their own Altus Book Club. The first read, My Friends, was enjoyed by everyone. The next book chosen is a Young Adult novel, The Poet X.



National Careers Week was a real success in our KS3 and KS4 centres; we welcomed employers to school, students were able to visit a variety of workplaces, had practice interviews and met with local colleges. Thank you to all involved.

Have a lovely holiday and we look forward to see you on Monday 13 April for RESET days.

Ms Gundry



News from Rutherford House



Centre Manager:
Mr Brad Simms

Brad.simms@altusschool.org.uk

01452 643008

End of term message from Mr. Simms:

As we come to the end of Terms 3 and 4, I'd like to take a moment to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped our new pupils settle in and our existing pupils continue to thrive. Our staff team have continued to make sure they offer a sense of belonging so that our pupils at Rutherford House can feel accepted.

This term our pupils have worked really hard, and it has been wonderful to see their efforts and progress across all areas of learning. From classroom activities to attending events in partnership with Gloucestershire Schools' Sports Network.

Lastly, thank you to our parents and carers for your ongoing support and involvement. Working together makes a real difference to the children's experience and success during their time with us.

I hope everyone has a well-deserved break, and we look forward to welcoming you all back next term



What's been happening during Terms 3 and 4?

- Our pupils attended an Orienteering event at Robinswood Hill and an Athletics event at University Of Gloucestershire through Gloucestershire Schools' Sports Network.
- On World Book Day KS2 took part in a reading workshop at Waterstones and KS1 visited The Works and each picked out a book.
- The pupils also attended a trip to Slimbridge Wetlands Trust to explore the issues caused by Plastic Pollution
- KS2 pupils attending The Padel club and had a lesson from a Padel instructor
- As part of our community links, we work closely with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, and our pupils did litter picking at Alney Island



News from Russet House



Centre Manager:

Mrs Liz Rudge

Liz.rudge@altusschool.org.uk

01452 528955

End of term message from Mrs. Rudge

We've had a busy two terms across 3 & 4 with a few pupils moving on to new educational settings and an overall increase in attendance, thanks to the efforts of our students and their parents/carers. Whilst we've had to say farewell and good luck to some, we've also had the pleasure of welcoming some new faces to Russet House who appear to be settling in well. With the warmer weather, and longer daylight, we're looking forward to next term, to work with our young people in accessing the curriculum and extra curricular activities planned. I wish everyone a restful break over the next 2 weeks.

What's been happening during Terms 3 and 4

Careers has been a big focus in Term 4 providing our pupils with the opportunity to visit The Furniture Recycling Project in Gloucester, explore career ideas with an expert from Gloucestershire College and experience a mock interview.

As part of **Active Learning** pupils have visited Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust, to explore a unique mix of wildlife and conservation. Six species of flamingos were in residence, and the groups were also able to hear a talk about Asian Small Clawed Otters currently at Slimbridge and see Tilly being fed. Students have more recently received an hour of rider coaching to develop mountain biking skills with 417 Flyup Bike Park – and their environmental and safety awareness has grown along with their confidence and resilience.

World Book Day was celebrated with the revamp of our library area, a delivery of books and the opportunity for a hot chocolate and story time in comfy pajamas.

In **Maths** we have been looking at coordinates and enjoyed playing games of 'battle-shots' by creating a coordinate grid on our football goal. We have also enjoyed getting out of centre and using our knowledge of coordinates to help with map reading.



News from the Ryeleaze Centre



Centre Manager:
Miss Rebecca Allen

Rebecca.allen@altusschool.org.uk

01453 767353

End of term message from Miss Allen

We have welcomed a few new students over the last two terms, who have settled in really well. We have also successfully moved some of our students on to flourish in their new schools.

As we look forward to the warmer weather, we are planning our next trips and activities for the students to gain new experiences and skills. Wishing you all a great Easter break.



What's been happening during Terms 3 and 4

Students had the opportunity to participate in an indoor climbing wall activity and mountain biking as part of their Active Learning lessons. Students were able to learn new skills as they gained confidence to try more challenging sections in both activities.



We have been incredibly lucky to be able to try an authentic Indian meal cooked by our staff member Ambika and Caron, our chef, also gave us a taste of a traditional Welsh menu for St David's Day which was thoroughly enjoyed. This was part of our Foods from around the World topic in food lessons. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all!



Careers week brought some interesting visits from many visitors including the fire service and a house renovation trade to broaden students' aspirations for future career ideas.



The warmer weather has seen the return of our farm visits with students' hands on experiences of caring for animals and everyday jobs for the running of a busy farm. We look forward to seeing our students' creativity and bright minds truly shine next term.



News from the Belle Vue Hub



Hub Programme Manager:
Mr Matt Brown

Matt.brown@altusschool.org.uk

01453 767293

End of term message from Mr. Brown

Here at the Hub our Year 11s have been focusing on filling gaps in learning, ready to complete functional skills exams. Early results have been very positive for a number of students and we are very proud of what they have achieved. Students have also been working with staff to complete assessments and have begun to have ownership of their own individual learning plans.

With Spring in full flow and the sun coming out more often, we are looking forward to the summer term and the activities and experiences we can give our students.



What's been happening during Terms 3 and 4

All of our students now have individual learning plans. Students have been starting functional skills work.

Students have been enjoying more of the outdoors, including sporting activities.

There has been lots of amazing dishes cooked in the kitchen which staff and students enjoy sharing.

We have also visited many different places including Tintern Abbey. That was a great day out and the students enjoyed the chance to visit a place of local historical interest!



News from the Horton Centre



Centre Manager:
Miss Sophie Ellis-Smith

Sophie.ellis-smith@altusschool.org.uk

01452 643060

End of term message from Miss Smith

This term at Horton has been both exciting and rewarding, with many opportunities for our students to develop new skills and experiences. A number of students took part in the My Futures programme, where they engaged with organisations such as Gloucester Rugby, Cheltenham Town Football Club, Skillzone, Gloucestershire Police, and Young Gloucester. These experiences have helped students gain a better understanding of future career pathways and build confidence.

During Careers Week students took part in mock interviews, completed job applications, and participated in structured sports and wellbeing activities alongside local colleges. This gave them valuable insight into the next steps in their education and future employment opportunities.

Our active learning programme has included climbing sessions in Worcester, where students challenged themselves, faced fears, and built resilience. It has been fantastic to see students stepping outside their comfort zones, as well as staff supporting and joining in with these activities.

Alongside this, we have continued to focus on Maths and English Functional Skills exams. We are very proud of how both year groups have approached this potentially challenging time, showing determination and maturity while completing exams under full conditions.

As always, there have been some challenges along the way, but we have worked closely as a team to support our students through these. We are particularly pleased with the strong relationships that continue to grow across our Horton Road community.

We are incredibly proud of all that our students have achieved this term and look forward to building on this success in the months ahead.



News from St George's Centre



Centre Manager:
Mrs Fiona Clarke

Fiona.clarke@altusschool.org.uk

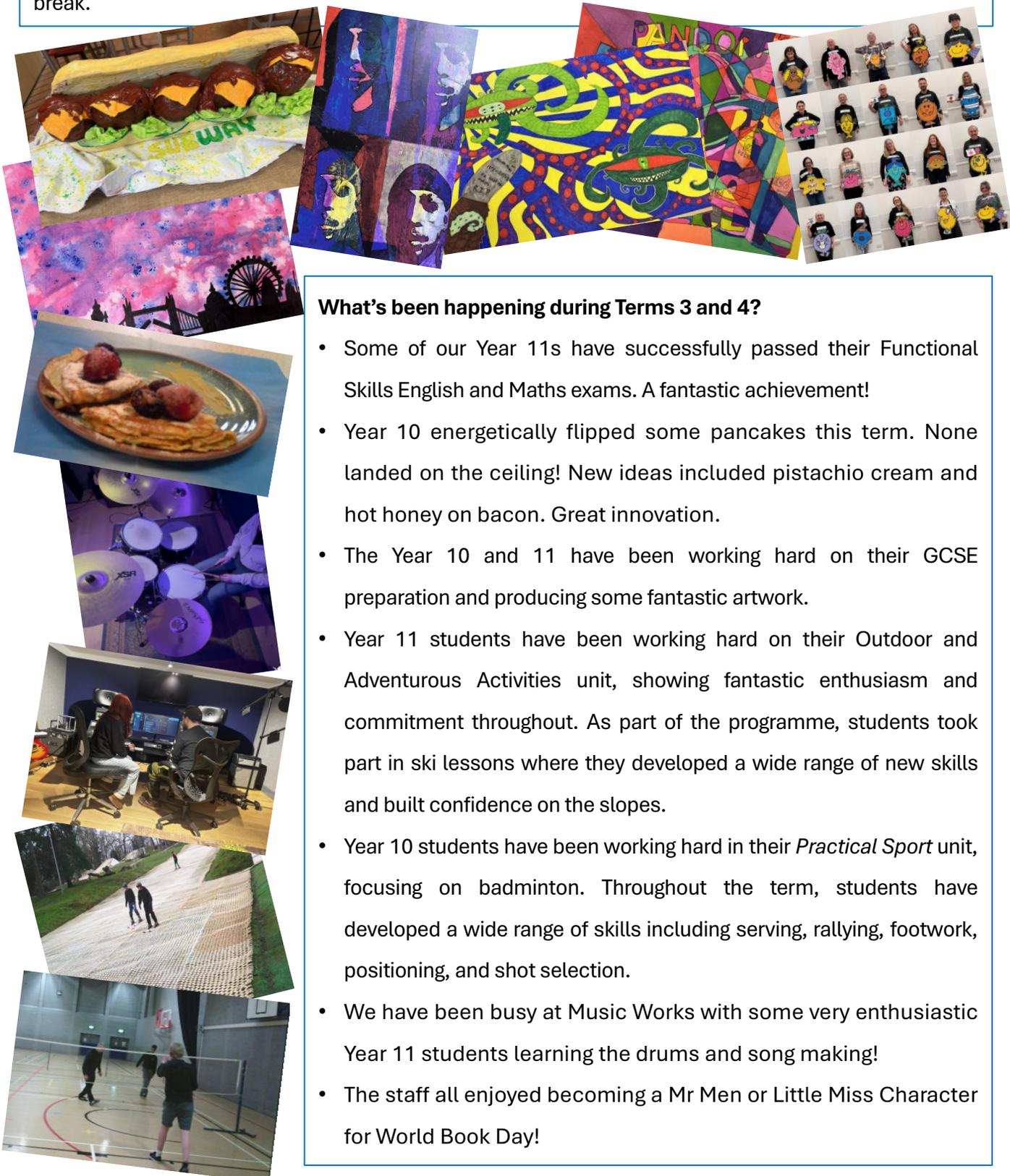
01242 581519

End of term message from Fiona

Its been a busy term for St Georges, with lots of exciting opportunities for our students. I am really proud of how creative our students are and how some are so keen to push themselves out of their comfort zone to try new things, we have so much talent here at St George's!

Year 11 are working hard towards their GCSE and Functional Skills exams.

At last, it seems lighter nights and warmer weather are on the way, wishing you all a lovely Easter break.



What's been happening during Terms 3 and 4?

- Some of our Year 11s have successfully passed their Functional Skills English and Maths exams. A fantastic achievement!
- Year 10 energetically flipped some pancakes this term. None landed on the ceiling! New ideas included pistachio cream and hot honey on bacon. Great innovation.
- The Year 10 and 11 have been working hard on their GCSE preparation and producing some fantastic artwork.
- Year 11 students have been working hard on their Outdoor and Adventurous Activities unit, showing fantastic enthusiasm and commitment throughout. As part of the programme, students took part in ski lessons where they developed a wide range of new skills and built confidence on the slopes.
- Year 10 students have been working hard in their *Practical Sport* unit, focusing on badminton. Throughout the term, students have developed a wide range of skills including serving, rallying, footwork, positioning, and shot selection.
- We have been busy at Music Works with some very enthusiastic Year 11 students learning the drums and song making!
- The staff all enjoyed becoming a Mr Men or Little Miss Character for World Book Day!

News from the Eastbrook Centre



Centre Manager:

Mrs Ann Morris

Ann.morris@altusschool.org.uk

01452 309510



What's been happening during Terms 3 and 4?

- **Careers Week** was a successful time in centre and students got a lot from meeting colleges, employers and local businesses. We had some great feedback about the behaviour and engagement of those who participated in the activities across the week.
- Year 11 have been busy preparing for their exams which start in Term 5, as well as many already passing their **Functional Skills** exams in English and Maths. In addition, during term 3 our Y11 students sat mock exams; we were very pleased by the results and many gained level 3 and 4's.
- A particular highlight this term was a visit from Simon Probyn, an internationally recognised sculptor who has worked extensively with landscape designers, collaborating in the design of award-winning gardens with members of the Royal Horticultural Society at Chelsea Flower Show and Hampton Court Gardens. For students completing the **Creative Industries** qualification it was inspiring to hear about different career pathways that art can provide.
- Art students also visited a local florist to find inspiration for still life photographs influenced by Imogen Cunningham.
- In **Cooking** students have been busy celebrating a number of birthdays, making a range of delicious treats to celebrate. A Kinder Bueno cake was voted the favourite.
- In **Sport** students have been learning to ski; for most this was their first time ever in a pair of skis and their progression has been fantastic. They have come a long way from the first slow snow plough and using the ski lift for the first time, to going all the way from to top of the hill and performing jumps

Careers News

Careers lead: Mr Clemow

Based at the Eastbrook Centre

Tel: 01452309510

Email: russ.clemow@altusschool.org.uk



It's been full throttle these last two terms!

All of our Year 11 Teachers, Teaching Assistants and the SEN team have been busy chatting to students about their next steps and have helped 49 students apply to a college. I'm shortly meeting our external partners who will support anyone that are undecided.

Our students have applied to Gloucester College, SGS and AccXel to study. Some students have also accepted apprenticeships. It's interesting to see that Construction, Hair & Beauty, Mechanics and Care are the most popular post-16 destinations.



We held an aspirational Careers Week in term 4. All of our Key Stage 3 and 4 centres participated, in a wide range of activities including:

- Meeting with college staff, discussing course information, finance and transport.
- Writing CVs and letters of application based on their individual career choice.
- Work based visits including to a nursing home, M5 Services, a coffee shop, recycling project, an art sculptor and Bio-One Medical distribution. Other students met with a Renishaw recruitment representative and participated in a VLUK sporting event.
- Company directors and employers from various backgrounds supported our students' aspirations and conducted mock interviews.
- Students developed work based skills, learning about corporate brands and taking part in fun team based activities.

Employer feedback:

- *"It was a very positive experience and I really felt there was a good level of engagement from the students I worked with."*
- *"I really enjoyed the session with the students yesterday; they were extremely well behaved and engaged well in the session."*
- *"Thanks for visiting our site, it was lovely to meet your group and hear about their plans."*



Safeguarding Team

If you have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child, you should report this immediately to a member of the Safeguarding Team



Debbie Kirkham

Designated Safeguarding Lead
07715 669138

Safeguarding renewal: 21.11.26



Philippa Dancey

Safeguarding Lead Governor
01452 309510

Safeguarding renewal: 15.07.26



Belle Vue Hub

Matt Brown

DDSL

01453 767293

Safeguarding renewal:
24.06.26



Eastbrook Centre

Ann Morris

DDSL

01452 309510

Safeguarding renewal:
14.06.26



Horton Centre

Sophie Ellis-Smith

DDSL

01452 643060

Safeguarding renewal:
24.06.26



Ryeleaze Centre

Rebecca Allen

DDSL

01453 767353

Safeguarding renewal:
21.10.26



Rutherford House

Brad Simms

DDSL

01452 643008

Safeguarding renewal:
29.01.26



St George's Centre

Fiona Clarke

DDSL

01242 581519

Safeguarding renewal:
03.09.27



Russet House

Liz Rudge

DDSL

01452 528955

Safeguarding renewal:
21.05.27



School-wide

Nicki Woolway

DDSL

07720 089466

Safeguarding renewal:
09.07.26

Our Safeguarding Team is dedicated to ensuring that every child in our school feels safe, supported, and valued. The team works closely with staff, parents, and external agencies to promote students' wellbeing and respond promptly to any concerns.

We are always available to offer guidance, listen to worries, and provide specialist support when needed. If you ever have a concern about your child's safety or wellbeing, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Safeguarding Team — we're here to help and to ensure that all children can learn and thrive in a secure environment.

Belonging Matters – valuing attendance



Our Deputy Director, Claire Greatbanks, is our **attendance champion**, and she works with Centre Managers to help overcome any barriers to a child coming into school.

In addition, our family support team, and in particular, Anita and Laura, are on hand for parents and carers to provide support, advice and guidance if you have any difficulties getting your child to school. Please reach out – we're here to help!

The Family Support Team provide more than just attendance support and can help with a wide range of things that you may need some extra help with.



You can find plenty more information about our school and support available on our website, www.altusschool.org.uk

Keep Up-to-Date!



Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up-to-date with all the things happening in school throughout the year.