



# Parent & Carer Newsletter

## July 2025



### Welcome from the Director of Alternative Provision

I am delighted to welcome you to our third and final newsletter of the year.

You will see that it has continued to be a busy and successful time for our students. We had nearly 70 Y11s recently complete a range of GCSE and other qualifications – we look forward to seeing students at St George's and the Eastbrook Centre on **Thursday 21 August** for the results day. In primary, Y6s completed their SATs in May, as well as a range of other assessments including phonics screening and the times table checks.

### Growing school

We officially opened the Horton Centre in June and are excited to welcome more students at the start of September. We also open a satellite base for primary students in Andoversford Primary School during Term 1.

### Saying goodbye

We sadly say goodbye to two members of the team this term. Barbara Duckworth has worked for many years in alternative provision, supporting young people both in school and in their home. Her impact has been significant and she will be much missed, but we wish her all the best as she enjoys her next adventure – that of retirement! Natalie Mason, who is a highly valued member of the Eastbrook team, also leaves to embark on a new career as a social worker, something we know she will excel at.

I was recently very moved by a comment made by a student, shared with me by a member of the team. During conversation, the student said *"it really annoys me that people call us a naughty person's school because we're not. [The school is just helping us find our feet and get us back on track](#)".* I don't think any of us could say what Altus is about any better! I remain hugely proud of the progress our young people make – and I hope as you read all they have done, you are as well.

Wishing you all a lovely summer, **Emma Gundry**

# News from Rutherford House



**Centre Manager:**  
Mr Brad Simms

[Brad.simms@altusschool.org.uk](mailto:Brad.simms@altusschool.org.uk)

01452 643008

## End of year message from Mr. Simms

It has been a busy and productive year at Rutherford House. I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate our successes as we transitioned 22 pupils back into mainstream schools and another 15 young people into specialist settings. Thank you to all our amazing parents and carers for your support this year. We're so proud of our students' achievements and grateful to work with such wonderful students and families. Here's to a well-deserved summer break.



## What's been happening during Terms 5 and 6

Our pupils have been on lots of different trips this term such as Cattle Country, Cotswold Wildlife Park and Beechenhurst. After building a great relationship with Cheltenham Festivals our KS2 pupils recently attended Cheltenham Music Festival where they listened to classical music and took part in an interactive music workshop. KS1 also enjoyed a fun Roman Day when they enjoyed the chance to dress up and experience life as a Roman.

All the children participated in a fun and successful Sports Day. They showed great sportsmanship, determination and success. This showed them that they can enjoy the opportunity to access the same experiences as their peers at other schools. We were delighted to have future Gloucester Rugby player, Mike Austin, present the awards.



# News from Russet House



**Centre Manager:**  
Mrs Liz Rudge

[Liz.rudge@altusschool.org.uk](mailto:Liz.rudge@altusschool.org.uk)

01452 528955

## End of year message from Mrs. Rudge

What a term! I've had the pleasure of picking up the reins a little earlier than planned but have been welcomed at Russet House by both students and staff. They've inducted me well to the workings of the Centre and the Altus School ethos of being ready, respectful and safe. Some days have been livelier than others – it's never a dull day in school!

Sadly, we'll be saying goodbye to our year 9s who are moving on to other Altus sites or mainstream school, but we wish them every success in this next chapter and hope to get updates on their progress. Have a good summer break and we look forward to seeing those pupils returning in September.



## What's been happening during Terms 5 and 6

It's been a busy Summer Term at Russet House. Some of our students have successfully completed courses at the Gloucester Youth Project and have received their AQA unit award certificates. We couldn't be prouder of them. We have been welcoming many new students and have enjoyed watching them settle in and embody our *ready, respectful and safe* ethos.

Russet House has been feeling creative this summer. Firstly, we celebrated Pride Month where our students inspired us with their mature discussions and thoughtful posters. Then, we had fabulous take up for our Art competition – the standard of entries was very high. Additionally, all term we have had fabulous engagement in our jewellery making option during wellbeing.

The highlight of our term must be John Bernard's visit. John is a professional spoken word artist who worked with our students to produce a new piece ready for him to perform at the Cheltenham Literature Festival!

# News from the Ryeleaze Centre



**Centre Manager:**  
Miss Rebecca Allen

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01453 767353

## End of year message from Miss Allen

This is the end of our first year at Ryeleaze centre as a KS3 provision and it has been great! We have welcomed new students and sent some on to new pastures.

The students have been able to access some fantastic activities, trips and visitors in centre, as well as a residential week to Abbey Home Farm.

We are saying good bye to our Y9 students and wish them well as they start the next step of their school journey.

Wishing you all a lovely summer break.



## Farm Residential

The students had a fantastic time during their residential week at Abbey Home Farm. Highlights included log splitting, cooking with fresh farm produce, animal feeding and shearing, fire making, and plenty of water fights to cool off. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature, build new skills and enjoy being away from home.

## Getting creative!

This year the students have truly embrace their artistic talents through our 'sweet treats' topic. Inspired by Peter Anton, they have created larger than life sculptures to showcase their creative skills. It has been imaginative, vibrant and a real treat to see!



# News from the Belle Vue Hub



**Hub Programme Manager:**  
Mr Matt Brown

[Matt.brown@altusschool.org.uk](mailto:Matt.brown@altusschool.org.uk)

01453 767293

## End of year message from Mr. Brown

This has been our first year as our new Centre, supporting our students with a more individualised approach to school. We have evolved over the year as a staff team and student group. We have been really proud to see our flexible approach to meeting student needs has shown to have a positive effect on them, with improved attendance and engagement with school.

Our year 11s have all worked hard towards their exams, and hope that results day will give them what they need and deserve to continue their journey to Post 16 and wish them all the best with whatever they decide to do.

We at the Hub hope all our students have a lovely safe summer and look forward to working with all our students in September.



## What’s been happening during Terms 5 and 6

Students have worked with Young Gloucestershire this term and continued their art project as seen in the pictures. This will be put up outside the garden area of the Hub.

Thanks to all the work and support from Emma and Ruth, students have continued to engage in Maths and English work including the completion of exams.

James has worked hard on the artwork with students enjoying getting creative. Jane has worked with all students developing the kitchen and producing some amazing food. Chris and Mark have taken students for activities which again have helped develop confidence and self-esteem.



# News from the Horton Centre



**Centre Manager:**  
Miss Sophie Ellis-Smith

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01452 643060

## End of year message from Miss Smith

We have had a really busy term and are all looking forward to the summer break. I am very much looking forward to welcoming our KS4 students in September and all of the staff starting in Horton Road.



## What's been happening during Terms 5 and 6

We are really excited to be opening Horton Road as our new Vocation Centre for The Altus School. This term we have been focusing on getting the Centre ready for September for when the students come in. This has involved a huge amount of preparation by Tracey our operations manager and the new staff who have started in Centre this term.

We are really fortunate to be welcoming some amazing staff onto the team who have worked tirelessly getting everything up and running. We have also welcomed five students this term who have had the opportunity to get to know the staff who have started by going for days out in the forest and going to the farm.



# News from St George's Centre



**Centre Manager:**  
Mrs Fiona Clarke

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01242 581519

## End of year message from Fiona

As we come to the end of the academic year and look forward to the summer break, it is good to look back at all the things our students have enjoyed and achieved over the year. I am proud of Year 11 who have all worked hard towards their exams, and hope that results day will give them what they need and deserve to continue their journey to Post 16 and wish them all the best with whatever they decide to do. Y10 have also started to sit and pass their Functional Skills exams in Maths and English. It's been a pleasure supporting all our students to be ready, respectful and safe in school, and look forward to seeing you all in September. Have a lovely summer!!



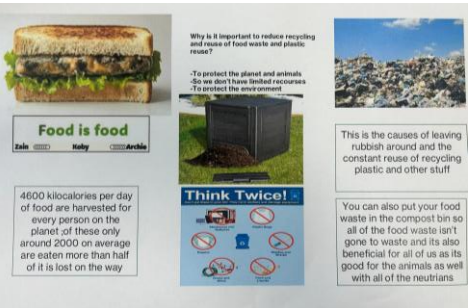
## What's been happening during Terms 5 and 6

We have enjoyed visits from Young Gloucestershire and the Army, and some of our students have had the opportunity to try skiing and paddle boarding as part of their Sport Pathway.

As always, the Art and Cooking classes have been productive. Our students have especially enjoyed special effects and cooking a wide range of delicious dishes, along with some amazing work produced by our GCSE Art class.

In Science students have been creating a recycling campaign and looking at how we can reduce waste and tackle global warming.

Our Y11 enjoyed a relaxing leavers day, and a well-deserved trip to Croft Farm.



# News from the Eastbrook Centre



**Centre Manager:**  
Mrs Ann Morris

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01452 309510

## End of year message from Mrs. Morris

As we approach the last week of this academic year, it is wonderful to reflect back on all that has been achieved through the year. For us, it was a new Centre, new students, and new activities. Everyone (students and staff) have worked hard together to build a new sense of belonging in our new home! It has been a real pleasure to see how hard the year 11s have worked towards and during their GCSE examinations, and I am incredibly proud of them all. I hope their efforts are reflected in their exam results and enable them to move on to the next part of their educational journey. Our year 10s have also been working hard towards preparing for and completing their Functional Skills exams in English and Maths. I have really enjoyed supporting all our students to be ready, respectful and safe in school, and look forward to seeing you all in September. Have a lovely summer break!!



## What's been happening during Terms 5 and 6

We have enjoyed visits from Young Gloucestershire and a visiting Poet/Songwriter, John Bernard. Students have played an important role in improving our outdoor space, cooperating with staff to build furniture – an important life skill!

Our Wellbeing Leaders have been exploring alternative ways to boost feel good feelings and encouraging our students to try something new. Good Food = Good Mood! As a class they choose a superfood ingredient and then cook a recipe using that ingredient, the action of cooking and eating helps release the happy hormone, Dopamine, into our bodies. This can improve our mood, reduce anxiety and help us digest food better to help us us to sleep better, even in this heat!

In Sport, students have been trying their hand at several sports with great success. In tennis, during the doubles matches students have shown fantastic teamwork and communication skills to outplay their opponents, discussing tactics and encouraging their partner.

Finally, we said our goodbyes to our Y11s during a celebratory meal in Gloucester Quays.

# Safeguarding Information



Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Debbie Kirkham. She is supported by a wider safeguarding team. If you have any concerns about your child's safety or wellbeing you can contact Debbie or her team who are there to support.

Simon Williams, Cyber Intelligence, Protect, Prepare & Prevent Officer for the Digital Intelligence Investigations Unit came to Rutherford House recently to deliver a presentation to parents. This was an informative session designed specifically for parents and carers, providing them with tools and insights to keep their children safe online. The session covered topics including:

- **Understanding Online Risks** – Identify the various dangers your children may encounter online, including cyberbullying, predators and harmful content.
- **Social Media and Apps safety** – Learn best practices for social media and applications. How to configure privacy settings and protect your child's information.
- **Parental Control Tools** – Explore tools and settings to monitor and control your child's online activities.
- **Encouraging Open Communications** – Gain tips on fostering honest conversations about internet use and creating a supportive environment.

For those parents who were unable to attend, we plan to run an online session during Term 2 of the new academic year – date to be confirmed. To register your interest please contact Laura Welch on 01452 528955 or [laura.welch@altusschool.org.uk](mailto:laura.welch@altusschool.org.uk).

Please click on the attached links to access useful information

## Online Safety

[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)  
[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)  
[www.ineqe.com](http://www.ineqe.com)  
[www.reportharmfulcontent.com](http://www.reportharmfulcontent.com)  
[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)  
[www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/)



**internet  
matters.org**



## Working Together to Safeguard Children

This illustrated guide helps to explain to children and young people and their families how individuals, organisations and agencies work together to help, support and protect them. Please click on the following link to access the document [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/681b42043f1c73824ee3e4f0/Children\\_and\\_young\\_person\\_guide\\_to\\_working\\_together\\_to\\_safeguard\\_children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/681b42043f1c73824ee3e4f0/Children_and_young_person_guide_to_working_together_to_safeguard_children.pdf)



## Water Safety

It is good to remind our children and young people of the Water Safety Code. Further information available at [The Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK\)](https://www.rlss.org.uk/)

## Summer water safety

Accidents are mostly preventable with the correct knowledge and judgment and here are our tips to staying safe in the water during the summer:

To enjoy the water safely and make the right call...

- Enter slowly and carefully  
Think carefully about your ability to splash or swim in cold outdoor water. 49% of those who lost their life were classified as swimmers\*. Are you really a good swimmer?
- Stay within reach  
Don't go too far and stay within a standing depth.
- Always be supervised  
Over 70% of fatal accidents occur in the absence of professional supervision. Seek life guarded areas and always make sure some one is available to raise the alarm.

Summer is an amazing time to enjoy our beautiful waterways but we must be mindful that warmer weather is directly linked to an increase in fatal drowning incidents.

Rivers and Lakes/Lochs pose the greatest statistical risk as there are often hazards that the average person is equipped to handle and there is a lack of professional supervision.

In an emergency...

- Call 999  
If you are at the coast, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard. Don't enter the water to rescue.
- If you're in trouble FLOAT and call for help  
Fall in or become tired – stay calm, float on your back and call for help. Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.



STOP AND THINK



STAY TOGETHER



CALL 999



FLOAT

# Gloucestershire

# HAF

holiday activities & food

## HAF (Holiday and Food Activities programme) 2025

HAF is back this summer. This will provide more funded activities and delicious food for children in reception to year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals. Please click on the link for further information

[Holiday activities and food programme \(HAF\) | Gloucestershire County Council](#)



### PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2025

[moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free](https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free)

**ANGUS STEAKHOUSE**  
Kids under 12 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

**ASDA**  
Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

**ASK ITALIAN**  
Kids under 10 eat for £1 during school holidays

**BEEFEATER**  
Kids Eat FREE with Newsletter Voucher this Summer

**BELLA ITALIA**  
Children eat for £1 with any adult main

**BILLS**  
Kids Eat Free weekdays, 21st July - 29th Sept

**BREWERS FAYRE**  
Kids Eat FREE with Newsletter Voucher this Summer

**BREWD OG**  
2 Kids eat free with 1 adult, 19th July - 31st August

**BURGER KING**  
From 28th July - 31st August, Kids Eat Free (via app)

**CHIQUITO**  
Kids eat FREE Daily Until August 31st

**DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES**  
Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

**FRANKIE & BENNY'S**  
Kids Eat Free from 14<sup>th</sup> July - 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

**FUTURE INNS**  
Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

**GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS**  
Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

**HARVESTER**  
Kids eat for £1, Mon - Fri via the App

**HUNGRY HORSE**  
Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

**IKEA**  
Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

**LAS IGUANAS**  
Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

**MARCO PIERRE WHITE**  
Kids under 12 eat FREE daily with an adult spend

**MORRISONS**  
Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

**PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM**  
Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

**PREMIER INN & TRAVELODGE**  
2 Kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

**PRETO**  
Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

**PUREZZA**  
Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

**SA BRAINS PUBS**  
Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

**SIZZLING PUBS**  
Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

**TABLE TABLE**  
2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult

**TESCO**  
Kids Eat FREE with a 60p spend until Aug 31st

**TGI FRIDAYS**  
Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

**THE REAL GREEK**  
Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

**TOBY CARVERY**  
Kids eat for £1 all day (weekdays) until Aug 29th

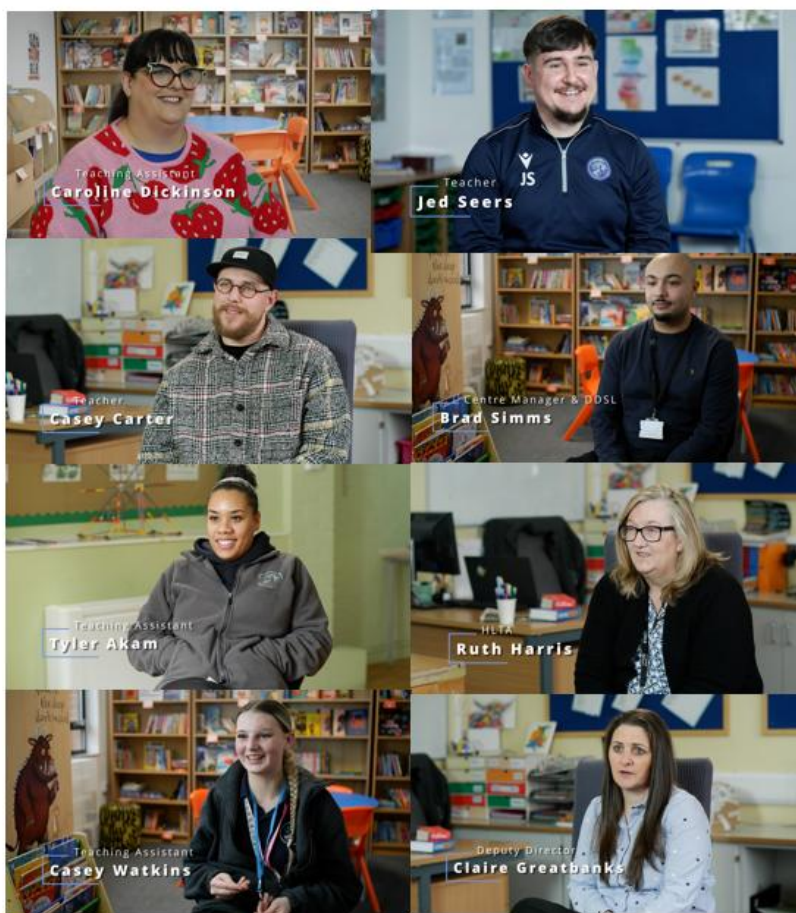
**WHITBREAD INNS**  
2 Kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

**YO! SUSHI**  
Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

**ZIZZI**  
Kids eat free this summer holidays (ex Saturdays)

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# Thank you to our staff team



We have over 100 staff in school and every day, they go above and beyond to support our children. It has been lovely to receive so many positive messages over the last year from parents and carers and other professionals who have appreciated the work of the team. At the end of another busy year, I am sure you will join me in saying ‘thank you’ for all their efforts!

*Please pass on our sincere heartfelt thanks to everyone in your teams we are in awe of the work they all do.*

*At our lowest, your commitment has saved my boy. Thank you, I am grateful*

*Thank you all for your support in such a short time – keep up the great work*

*Thank you for being role models to our children. My son has come on leaps and bounds at Altus. I’m forever grateful*

*We are truly grateful for the care and support you have shown, not just to J but to us as a family as well*

## 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.